

Spain: Israel must accept conference

CAIRO (R) — Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez said Tuesday he believed Israel had no alternative but to accept an international peace conference on the Middle East. The European Economic Community (EEC) agreed Monday that Spain, Greece and France would contact Israel, the United States and the PLO to press for an international peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict. Ordonez, who becomes chairman of the EEC council of ministers from Jan. 1, said it was too early to give details of the EEC initiative, expected to get underway next month. "We (the EEC) think we can play a useful role in the process of peace in the Middle East," he said. "For the first time, the community has changed from a policy of declaration or statements to a policy of active diplomacy. I think we have tried all the other alternatives (to an international conference)." He was speaking to reporters after meeting Egyptian Foreign Minister Hosni Mubarak for 90 minutes. Asked if Israel would change its strong opposition to the idea, Ordonez answered: "Yes, I believe so."

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AROUND THE WORLD...

U.S. opposes new W. Bank settlements

WASHINGTON (R) — The State Department said Tuesday new Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank would not help the peace process, pointing out what may become a sharp difference with Israel in the months ahead. Israel's ruling Likud and Labour parties agreed Monday to form a new national unity government that would, among other things, create more settlements in the West Bank. Asked at a news briefing to comment on the settlement issue, State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said: "Our position... is the settlements are not helpful in moving toward a comprehensive peace settlement, which we all desire. We will be happy to work with whatever government emerges out of this."

Botha fires only non-white minister

CAPE TOWN (R) — President P.W. Botha fired South Africa's only non-white cabinet minister Tuesday after a six-month probe into corruption in parliament. Botha announced he was sacking Amichand Rajbansi, 46, after studying the findings of a judicial inquiry into corruption and graft in the Indian house of parliament which Rajbansi heads. "I have decided to terminate your services as member of the cabinet... with effect from Jan. 1, 1989," Botha said in a letter to Rajbansi released to the media.

How to visit Gulf and Djibouti

LONDON (R) — British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe will make a seven-state, nine-day tour to the Gulf and Djibouti in early January, the Foreign Office announced Tuesday. Howe will visit Kuwait from Jan. 2-3, Saudi Arabia Jan. 3-4, Abu Dhabi Jan. 4-5, Dubai Jan. 5-6, Oman Jan. 6-8 and Yemen Arab Republic Jan. 8-10. After leaving Sana'a Jan. 10 he will spend the day in Djibouti on his way back to London, the Foreign Office said.

Fighting flares in south Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Rival militias fought gunbattles across Beirut's southern slums Tuesday. There was no immediate word from police on casualties. Police said they could not confirm what triggered the fighting which broke out shortly after 6 p.m. (1600 GMT) in the area. The fighting was between the mainstream Amal militia and Hizbollah. Hizbollah gunmen "apparently are trying to overrun the Amal headquarters," said a police spokesman.

Bhutto sets up anti-drug unit

ISLAMABAD (R) — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has set up a special unit to deal with drug abuse and has named a former exile to head it, the official APP news agency said Tuesday. Kalim Duj Khan, a former police officer who returned last week after 10 years of self-exile in Britain, will be a special assistant to Bhutto dealing with drug abuse and ways to combat bandits and highway robbers, the agency said.

TASS reports Afghan rebel offensive

MOSCOW (R) — Afghan rebels have started a major offensive against the city of Gardez, capital of the eastern province of Paktia, subjecting it to a heavy bombardment with rockets and shells, TASS news agency reported Tuesday. A rebel attempt to capture the city of Mehtarman in Laghman province has been beaten back after three days of fighting involving some 2,000 insurgents, TASS said. It did not say if Soviet forces had taken part in the battle.

Greek arms tycoon on the run

ATHENS (AP) — Police Tuesday launched a nationwide manhunt for the former director of the state-owned Hellenic Arms Industry (EBO). Ex-EBO director and board chairman Stamatios Cambanis is wanted for his alleged involvement in a multi-million dollar arms scandal rocking the ruling Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK). Two other former EBO board members were arrested Monday while police sought a fourth.

Murder convict shot dead in court

PIRAEUS (AP) — A convicted murderer was shot to death Tuesday by the father of his victim during an appeal court hearing to reduce his sentence in this Athens port city. Ioannis Venerakis, 36, serving a life sentence, was shot with a pistol by Ioannis Papadopoulos, 62, who was arrested by court police, a police official said. "I did it for the memory and honour of my son," Papadopoulos was quoted as saying later at a Piraeus police station.

Ethiopia urges Sudanese peace

CAIRO (R) — Ethiopian Prime Minister Fikre-Selassie Wogderess urged the Khartoum government and southern Sudanese rebels Tuesday to work for the success of talks to end five years of civil war. He told reporters after two hours of talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak that Addis Ababa had put pressure on Sudanese rebel leader John Garang to start talking peace with Khartoum. "We believe the John Garang movement is not a secessionist movement. They have democratic demands. We have pressured Garang to conduct a dialogue under the umbrella of a united Sudan," Fikre-Selassie said.

British minister to visit PLO in Tunis

LONDON (R) — British Foreign Office Minister William Walgrave will visit the Tunis headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in mid-January, a government source said Tuesday. "He will meet senior PLO members and that could include PLO leader Yasser Arafat," the source told Reuters. The source said Walgrave's visit was not intended to pave the way for any meeting between Arafat and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher or Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe.

Rafsanjani sees normal Saudi links soon

NICOSIA (R) — One of Tehran's top leaders, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, has forecast that relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia would soon return to normal. Riyadh broke diplomatic relations with Tehran last April, accusing the Iranians of hostile acts. In an interview with Austrian television carried on Tehran Radio Tuesday, Rafsanjani — the country's parliamentary speaker — said: "I think in the not too distant future our relations will normalise. We are inclined to resolve the issues concerning our relations and so are they."

Britain asks to see Iran detainees

LONDON (R) — Britain, in a move to test the warmth of newly-restored ties with Iran, has asked to see before Christmas two of its nationals detained in Tehran, the Foreign Office said Tuesday. Britain's acting charge d'affaires, Gordon Pirie, also repeated a request for the Iranians to help gain the release of three British hostages held in Lebanon, a Foreign Office spokesman said. The two Britons being held in Tehran are businessman and journalist Roger Cooper, 53, who was arrested three years ago for alleged spying, and Nicholas Nicola, a London man held for the past two years following a shooting incident.

King, Queen attend RJ silver jubilee celebrations

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Tuesday attended celebrations marking the silver jubilee of Royal Jordanian, the national carrier, at the Queen Alia International Airport maintenance building. Ali Ghandour, chairman and chief executive officer of Royal Jordanian, made a speech welcoming Their Majesties and thanking them on behalf of the RJ staff. Ghandour said it was due to His Majesty's care and attention that the carrier had grown over the years and continues its march.

Ghandour reaffirmed RJ's commitment, determination and dedication to serving the country and citizens.

Recalling that the establishment of a national carrier was a dream for the country in the years preceding RJ's founding 25 years back, Ghandour paid tribute to the efforts exerted by His Majesty in making Jordan a historical pioneer for ideal life.

Briefly reviewing the history of RJ since its establishment, Ghandour congratulated the King on the occasion of its silver jubilee and expressed confidence and pride of the carrier, which he said represents "a bridge of civilisation that connects Jordan with the outside world."

Following the welcoming ceremony, Their Majesties watched a documentary on the airline's growth, and development and achievements.

Crown Prince urges regional solutions for children's issues

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday stressed the need for an international understanding designed to address the health and educational aspects of children and to provide the appropriate means for ensuring the proper social development for them. In an interview with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa Richard Reid, Prince Hassan said children were the victims of hunger, desertification and homelessness and that remedy should come through a comprehensive perspective that concentrates on regional solutions for children's problems.

Prince Hassan said the idea for holding an international summit for children to formulate a new

approach for saving world children was a good idea provided that such a conference does not look at children's problems from a charity point of view.

Prince Hassan called for holding consultations among agencies concerned with humanitarian issues and preparing an agenda that takes into consideration regional solutions for children's problems.

The Crown Prince warned of the world population explosion and called for provision of mother and child programmes and for effective implementation of such programmes, in order to ensure that the negative results of the increasing number of births are avoided. He also called for a change in the social patterns with a view to guaranteeing the chil-

dren's healthy growth and development.

UNICEF's State of the World Children Report, which was released Monday by UNICEF Executive Director James Grant in New Delhi, included a call for convening an international summit to draw up a new approach for saving the millions of children who die every year as a result of poverty, ignorance and diseases.

The report called for an initiative similar to the Marshall economic plan which was launched after World War II to deal with the worst aspects of poverty.

The report noted that the breakthroughs that have been achieved over the past 20 years are now jeopardised by the debt crises which beset the developing countries (see page 2).

PLO leader gets state honours in Belgrade

BELGRADE (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat was welcomed with the honours reserved for a head of state Tuesday when he flew in for talks with Yugoslav President Rado Dzakovic to win support for the latest Palestinian diplomatic moves.

Arafat was greeted by Dzakovic at Belgrade airport and reviewed a guard of honour. He later placed a wreath on the tomb of the late Yugoslav President Tito, a ritual gesture by visiting heads of state.

Talks with Dzakovic and Yugoslav Communist Party leader Srdje Stojanovic were expected to focus on last week's first contacts between the United States and the PLO, Yugoslav officials said.

Arafat arrived from Austria, where he told Austrian Radio he believed that a Palestinian state with its own territory would exist within less than two years.

He had also said that last week's Palestinian resolution condemning terrorism was hindering on the entire PLO.

But the PLO would have to weigh carefully any possible Israeli reaction before setting up a Palestinian government-in-ex-

ile, Arafat said on Austrian radio.

Arafat Tuesday accused Israel's Labour Party of trying to torpedo peace efforts and of betraying its election pledges by agreeing to new Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

"The Israeli leadership is undertaking efforts in order to impede the process of peace and the convening of an international peace conference," the PLO chairman told a news conference. Labour leader Shimon Peres entered a coalition agreement with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud Party Tuesday calling for eight new Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Arafat called Peres' move a "retreat of the Labour Party from its own policy," which it spelled out before inconclusive elections on Nov. 1.

The PLO leader met Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, President Kurt Waldheim and Foreign Minister Alois Mock Monday. "These talks represent a big step forward in our joint effort to convene the international peace conference on the Middle East," Arafat said of his discussions in Vienna.

Likud, Labour forge anti-PLO coalition

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's rival Likud and Labour parties have agreed to set up a new "national unity" government to prevent the creation of a Palestinian state in the occupied territories and further diplomatic gains for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"We can stand only on a united front against the idea of a Palestinian state or a retreat to 1967 borders or any contacts with the PLO. The only answer is a broad government," said Yossi Alhimie, a senior aide to Likud leader Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Labour Party ministers Tuesday endorsed the agreement with Likud that will keep power from small religious factions.

Labour leader Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who will become finance minister, said he was satisfied with the coalition agreement that will end nearly two months of uncertainty over the shape of the next government.

"Considering the results of the elections... I prefer a government composed of the two parties... over a narrow rightist government with a strong religious

emphasis," he said.

Nov. 1 elections gave Likud a one-seat edge over Labour. Peres said the agreement blocked a move by the religious parties to amend Israel's so-called law of "return." The proposed amendment, barring non-orthodox converts to Judaism from becoming Israeli citizens, had alarmed American Jews.

Likud and Labour put off signing the agreement that will unite their parties in a second successive Israeli cabinet until their central committees approve the accord.

Trade Minister Ariel Sharon of Likud, who wants "decisive" action to quell the year-long Palestinian revolt in the occupied territories, led opponents of the deal. Sharon, a former defence minister, said the new cabinet — like the current one — would be indecisive and said it could lead to creation of a state led by the PLO.

Alhimie said only a Likud-Labour coalition could withstand international pressure to negotiate with the PLO following Washington's decision last week to open talks with the liberation movement.

Israelis raid W. Bank villages

OCUPPED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops raided several Palestinian villages in the occupied West Bank Tuesday, ordering residents to paint over anti-occupation graffiti, destroying olive groves and conducting house-to-house searches, reports said.

Three Palestinians were shot and wounded in clashes with soldiers that grew out of the early-morning raids and in stone-throwing confrontations in two refugee camps, hospital officials said.

Hospital officials said a 15-year-old Palestinian boy was shot and wounded during a confrontation at 'Ain Arlik, near Ramallah. The clash erupted when the army brought in a bulldozer to destroy groves of olive and lemon trees used by villagers as cover when they hurl rocks at Israeli buses on a road nearby, Palestinian reports said.

The other raids were in Beit Sira and Sidwad, also near Ramallah, and in Kfar Thluth near Nablus, the reports said.

Also Tuesday, two Palestinians were wounded in the Gaza Strip refugee camp of Shati and the Askar camp near Nablus in the West Bank, according to Palestinian doctors.

Clashes were also reported Tuesday in the West Bank's Al Ein refugee camp and in Arah Jerusalem, where police fired tear-gas after stone-throwing protesters damaged a police car.

In the Al Ein camp, near Nablus, residents raised three Palestinian flags and stoned troops, who responded with tear-gas and fired gravel from a jeep fitted with a device for spraying pebbles at demonstrators, Arab reports said.

In the Gaza Strip town of Khan Yunis, merchants shuttered their shops during a general strike called to protest the wounding of residents in clashes Monday.

In the West Bank Monday, a Palestinian boy died of wounds his family said he sustained when he was thrown from a moving army jeep in Nablus Dec. 10.

New law endorsed

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers met under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Tuesday and endorsed the new companies law which was recently amended to conform with the latest developments in the national economy and special legal relationships and to unify legislation after plugging inadequacies in the old law.

In addition, a cabinet statement said, the new law is also aimed at facilitating new avenues for investments.

The cabinet also endorsed a new amended law on Income Tax and another law on axial load of vehicles.

ICRC suspends Lebanon operations

GENEVA (R) — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in a move without precedent, Tuesday suspended its humanitarian operations in Lebanon after receiving death threats against its delegates there. The all-Swiss organization announced in a brief communique it was informed Monday "that serious threats had been made against its delegates on mission in Lebanon, placing their lives in acute danger. The ICRC therefore feels compelled to suspend its entire humanitarian operation there and to repatriate all its expatriate staff immediately. In all circumstances, the ICRC accepts the risks inherent in situations of conflict. It cannot, however, tolerate that its delegates should be subject to a threat that negates the very essence of their humanitarian essence." The decision came four days after kidnappers released the chief ICRC delegate in South Lebanon, Peter Winkler, who had been held hostage for almost a month. The kidnapping had prompted the ICRC to scale down its presence in Lebanon after 20 years of operations in the country. But most delegates had remained and continued to render what headquarters said was emergency assistance.



King, Assad review latest developments

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday telephoned Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and exchanged views with him on the latest developments in the region and issues of mutual interest for both countries.

Coup bid reported in Sudan; Khartoum under emergency

KHARTOUM (R) — The government placed the Sudanese capital under a state of emergency Tuesday following reports of an attempted coup, officials said.

They said the move giving police wide powers of arrest was necessary due to important security issues and more details would be made public later.

The Sudanese newspaper Al Sudani said the government had foiled a coup attempt Sunday by "racists," a term used to describe Sudanese mainly from the south of the country involved in anti-state activity.

The decision to declare a state of emergency was taken Monday night by a committee chaired by Attorney General Hassan Al Tourabi, who is also a deputy prime minister and minister of justice, the officials said.

The number of checkpoints in Khartoum at night have in-

creased in the last two days with motorists reporting they were stopped and searched five times by police between the capital and the airport.

Officials said last week a coup plot had been uncovered and an army lieutenant-colonel arrested.

The independent daily Al Usbu said Tuesday those plotters were retired army officers and politicians who served under Jaafar Numeiri, ousted as president in a 1985 military coup.

It said they had planned to assassinate political and military leaders.

The emergency measures coincided with signs of growing differences within Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi's coalition government.

A debate in parliament on ways to end the five-year civil war in southern Sudan originally scheduled for Monday

was again put off until Wednesday.

Speaker Mohammad Yousef said the postponement was due to unfinished consultations between political parties.

The impasse over peace moves in the south came one day after the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) threatened to attack Khartoum with a Soviet-made MIG-23. The plane was captured when a Libyan pilot crash-landed Dec. 11 in an area under SPLA control after running out of fuel.

The SPLA was fought since 1983 in the south to end what it sees domination by the north.

The military have taken power three times since Sudan became independent in 1956. Several attempts were made between 1969 and 1985 to topple Numeiri who came to power himself in a military coup.

GCC achieves oil accord, continues political talks

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Oil ministers of the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Tuesday achieved an agreement on policy intended to boost the price of oil.

"The oil ministers have achieved agreement on the GCC countries' oil policies, and the foreign ministers will examine that agreement later this evening before submitting it to the summit session tomorrow," Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohamad Ibn Mubarak Al Khalifa told a news conference.

He said without elaborating it was the "first time ever that an agreement on oil is achieved within the frameworks of a (GCC) summit conference."

Taking part in the summit sessions are King Fahd of Saudi

Arabia; the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah; the emir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Hamad Al Thani; the president of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan; Sultan Qaboos Ibn Sa'id of Oman and the emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa.

The main political items on the agenda of the summit are deciding on ways to bolster U.N. efforts to achieve an Iran-Iraq peace treaty, support the Palestinian drive for a peace settlement, and provide help for Lebanon to end its 13-year-old civil war.

The emir of Bahrain, in his inaugural address Monday, expressed hope for better relations with Iran by rebuilding "war-shattered bridges."

In their first summit since the Aug. 20 ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war, the GCC leaders continued closed-session talks Tuesday aimed at strengthening the Gulf truce and moves by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Conference sources said they discussed the political situation in the region and a message from PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. The GCC states were among the first to recognise an independent Palestinian state declared last month by the Palestine National Council and the summit is expected to reiterate calls for a Middle East peace conference.

Sheikh Mohammad told Tuesday's press conference the GCC leaders had pledged to do what they could to ensure the unity and independence of Lebanon.

Shevardnadze agrees to pursue Kurile talks

TOKYO (R) — The Soviet Union has agreed to formal talks with Japan on a territorial dispute which has soured relations for more than 40 years, a spokesman for Japan's ruling political party said Tuesday.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, in talks with the Liberal Democratic Party's Secretary-General Shintaro Abe, also said Moscow was willing to act as a mediator in the tense relations between Japan and North Korea.

North Korea and Japan do not have diplomatic relations and have been wrangling for years over two Japanese sailors detained in North Korea since 1983 for allegedly helping a soldier defect to Japan.

The spokesman said Shevardnadze, on his first visit to Japan in nearly three years, told Abe the "geographic" issue, as well as economic cooperation and other problems should be taken up by standing, rather than ad hoc, working committees.

The Soviet Union had previously refused to discuss the tiny but strategically-placed islands at

the end of the Kurile Chain, occupied by Soviet troops in the closing days of World War II.

"It's definitely a step forward," said Professor Akio Kimura of the private Aoyama Gakuin University.

"It is a sharp contrast to the last days of (the late Soviet leader Leonid) Brezhnev when Moscow insisted that there was no such problem and that even mentioning the subject was 'anti-Soviet,' and unfair," he added.

Tokyo and Moscow have yet to sign a peace treaty formally ending World War II. The Japanese government has insisted on a return of the islands as a condition for signing a treaty.

"We want to conclude this treaty with new ideas. Of course old proposals are just as good," the spokesman quoted Shevardnadze as telling Abe.

Abe, a former foreign minister, called on Shevardnadze to show progress on the territorial dispute in the wording of the joint communique to be issued before he leaves for Manila Wednesday. "That's what I came here for," Shevardnadze replied.



Eduard Shevardnadze

Earlier, Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita told Shevardnadze the island issue had to be solved before relations could improve.

"The problem is unavoidable for Japanese-Soviet relations. Once solved, clear new prospects for better cooperation will be opened," a Foreign Ministry spokesman quoted Takeshita as saying.

During the one-hour meeting, which the ministry spokesman described as friendly, Shevardnadze delivered a letter to Takeshita from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Its contents were not disclosed.

UNICEF report urges basic changes in world economic order to help children

By Rania Atalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has called for major structural changes in the world's economic and social order in a way that would meet children's essential needs.

"At least half a million young children have died in the last twelve months as a result of the slowing down or reversal of progress in the developing world," UNICEF's State of the World's Children Report for 1989 read. "It is children who are bearing the heaviest burden of debt and recession in the 1980s."

Unlike previous reports, the 1989 report views the world economic recession, and the debt crisis in particular, as having a major effect on the poor, especially children and women, in the developing world.

It cites debt repayments and falling commodity prices as the two elements that dominated the deterioration of economic prospects for the developing world in recent years.

Estimating the total debt of the developing world at \$1000 billion, the report states that "on average, repayments (of interest and capital) now claim almost 25 per cent of the developing world's export revenues."

In the last 10 years, the report states, real prices for the developing world (which still

depends on raw materials for the majority of its export earnings) have fallen by approximately 30 per cent.

The report states that \$40 billion flowed from the northern hemisphere to developing nations of the south in 1979 to assist in the struggle against poverty, the trend has now been reversed. Taking into account loans, aid, repayments of interest and capital, the southern world now transfers at least \$20 billion a year to the northern hemisphere, the report states.

In view of the "darkened" economic climate of the developing world, most of the affected nations have been forced to adopt economic adjustment policies in an attempt to stave off balance-of-payments crises. At the same time, those countries have been meeting debt obligations, maintaining essential imports, and struggling to return to economic growth, the report states.

'Poor' and 'vulnerable'
Suffering most from that situation are the "poor" and "vulnerable" who have least political muscle to ward off the blow of recession, and least economic fat with which to absorb that blow, the report states.

"It is the young child... paying the highest of all prices... who will bear the most recurring of all costs, the mounting debt repayments,

the drop in export earnings, the increase in food costs, the fall in family incomes, the run-down of health services and the narrowing of educational opportunities," the report said.

Regression

UNICEF Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa Richard Reid said Tuesday the report points out that at least one sixth of the world's children and families are not marching with the advance of human progress but are actually regressing.

The report, he said, concentrates on the global, social and economic inequities and shows how these impinge on children and rob them of the future which they deserve.

"There is good evidence that the march of progress has been thrown in reverse for children and their families," especially in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean," Reid told a press conference.

He said that in those areas, children's weight-for-age, an "incontestable" indicator of how well a child is, has fallen sharply. Children between six and 11 years of age who should be in school, are not in school, Reid said. "More and more children in absolute numbers of low birth weight are being born," he added.

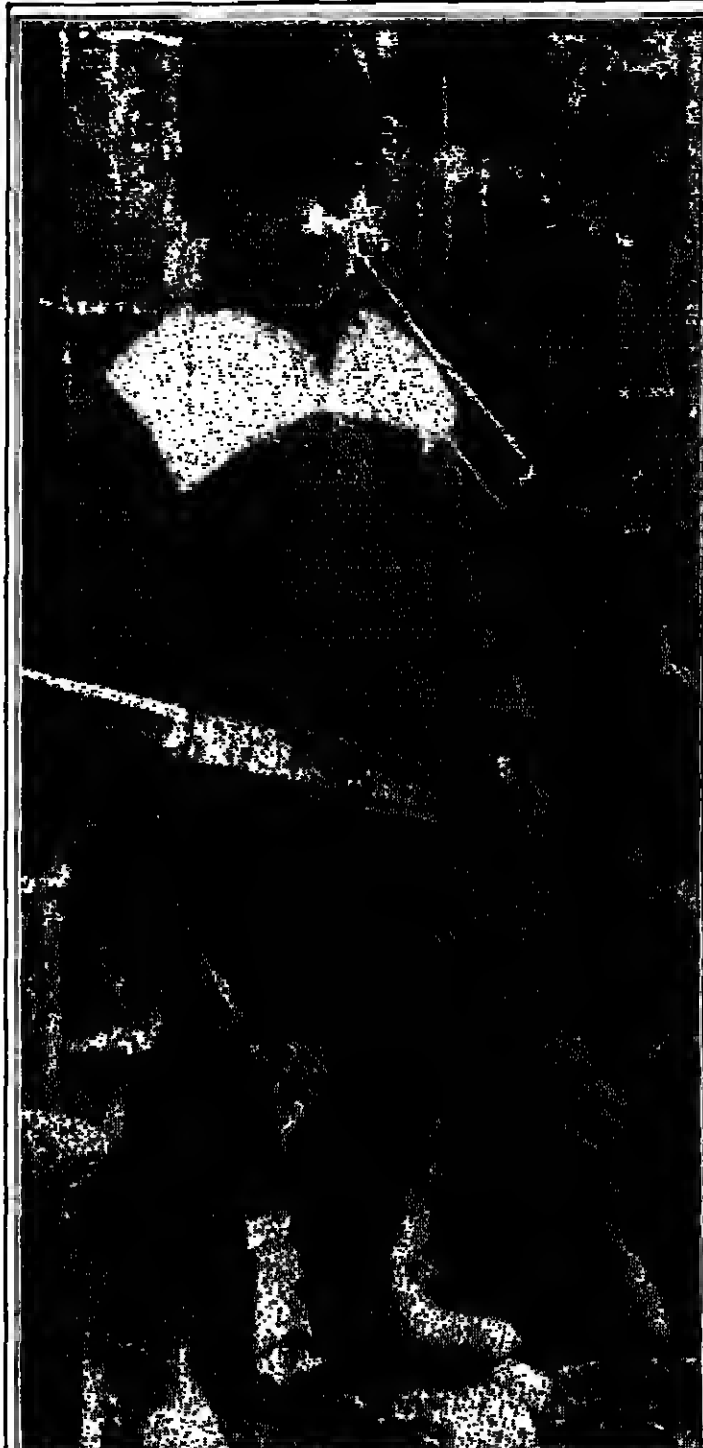
What is now required, according to the report, is "a commitment to real develop-

ment — a development which unequivocally puts people first, in good times and in bad, and takes as its central purpose the task of enabling all families to meet their own and their children's essential needs."

A combination of debt reduction and increased aid, the report suggests, will unlock the doors to growth. If a renewed development effort is to arise from the depths of the debt crisis, the report adds, its first priority should be the meeting of the essential needs of all human beings for adequate nutrition, clean water, safe sanitation, primary health care, adequate housing and basic education.

UNICEF estimates the cost of such a strategy at \$30-\$50 billion a year throughout the 1990s, half of which could come from the developing world itself "if the funds were shifted from high-cost services for the few towards low-cost services for the many." The other half would have to come in the form of increased aid, the report adds.

The report also called on world leaders to put children at the centre of the world's political agenda. More specifically, it called for a summit meeting of world leaders, a meeting which may "help create the wider vision of international cooperation for the kind of development that meets the needs and enhances the capacities of the poorest half of the world's people."



A STUDY IN CONTRASTS — A Palestinian child armed with sticks and Israeli soldiers in the occupied West Bank.

U.N. chief voices concern over Israeli tactics

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar Monday expressed concern over use of live ammunition by Israeli troops in their attempt to quell the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

"The secretary-general is naturally following the situation in the occupied territories very closely. He is deeply concerned by press reports of casualties sustained during the past few days, in particular deaths resulting from the use of live ammunition," said his spokeswoman, Nadia Younes.

"The secretary-general again calls on the Israeli authorities to comply in full with the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention," governing the treatment of civilians in time of armed

conflict, she said. She had little to say about PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's call for the United Nations to push the Middle East peace process forward.

In Vienna, Arafat said Monday that he hoped Israel would be brought into the process "through the United Nations and through the support of... all people who are looking for real just peace in the Middle East."

Younes noted that Perez de Cuellar had returned to New York and would be consulting with the Security Council and other interested parties on a Middle East peace conference, but could not say which nations or groups would be involved.

Army-guard battle reported in Tehran

NICOSIA (AP) — Three Iranian soldiers were killed and 53 wounded in a Tehran gunbattle between the regular army and the Revolutionary Guards Corps, the main Iranian opposition group, dined Tuesday.

The Iraqi-based Mujahedeen-e-Khalq said in a statement that the clash that lasted several hours took place in and around the Afshar garrison in the Iranian capital Nov. 26.

There was no independent confirmation of the shootout, in which the Mujahedeen claimed the Revolutionary Guards over-

whelmed the regular military forces.

The regular army, built up by the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi and still widely distrusted by many revolutionary leaders, has long been at odds with the Revolutionary Guards.

There were persistent reports during the eight-year-old war with Iraq of regular troops clashing with the often unruly guards units and refusing to support them in battle.

The army's officer corps was decimated in purges after Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's Islamic

revolution toppled the Shah in 1979.

Since Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani was named acting commander-in-chief by Khomeini in June to remould Iran's military forces, there have been efforts to integrate the army and the guards corps.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement telefaxed from its Baghdad headquarters to the AP in Cyprus that the fighting erupted when elements of the guards corps' 1st Sarollah Division moved against the army's 21st Hamzeh Division in Tehran.

The statement said that when the regular troops resisted, the attackers ran down several soldiers with trucks, injuring several.

The subsequent gun battle spread out from the barracks into the surrounding streets, the report said.

Apart from the military's casualties, the Mujahedeen said the Revolutionary Guards also took 50 soldiers prisoner.

The Mujahedeen said there have been other clashes between the two Iranian forces in recent weeks, but gave no details.

Challenges face new Israeli government lacking fresh solutions

By Paul Taylor
Reuters

TEL AVIV — Israel's new "national unity" government faces daunting challenges from the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, a Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) diplomatic offensive and a stagnating economy but appears to have few fresh ideas.

Analysts believe the Likud and Labour parties which agreed on terms for a new coalition Monday could perpetuate a stalemate that has prevented Israel from embarking on a Middle East peace initiative for the last four years.

"This is a government that gives no answer on the vital issue for the state of Israel, the issue of peace and war," said Professor Amnon Rubinstein, whose Shinui (change) party quit the last coalition in protest at deadlock on peace moves.

The coalition accord, which was to be initiated Tuesday, commits the government to crush the year-old uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip without saying how, build eight new Jewish settlements and refuse to talk peace with the PLO.

It contains no new peace proposals despite a widespread recognition on both sides of the government that Israel must try to regain the initiative seized by the PLO over the last two months.

"There is no reason why this government should be less paralysed than the former government," a gloomy foreign ministry official conceded.

At most, he said, the parties might try to implement limited Palestinian "self-rule" in the occupied territories, but this could be thwarted by the PLO, he said.

Likud-Labour differences
Likud opposes giving up any occupied Arab land, while Labour says it would hand back part of the West Bank in peace talks.

A fruitless cabinet debate last Sunday highlighted the deadlock. Cabinet sources said two ministers proposed that Israel unilaterally enforce Palestinian "autonomy," but Labour leader Shimon Peres rejected the idea.

"Imagine a situation where the army pulls out of Nablus and tomorrow they fly the PLO flag and announce a PLO committee for the administration of Nablus. What do

we do then? How do we divide areas of authority?" Peres asked.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said: "I don't believe any unilateral action will serve the purpose of any movement towards a solution." Israel must not cave in to violence, he added.

The Israeli consensus distilled in the coalition paper seems remote from an emerging world consensus on the Middle East.

More than 70 states have recognised the recently-declared Palestinian state and Israel's staunchest ally, the United States, last week opened talks with the PLO.

Western diplomats said change was more likely to come from outside.

U.S. President-elect George Bush's new government seemed likely to put more pressure on Israel than the Reagan administration, which allowed the Zionist state effectively to veto its two Middle East peace plans in 1982 and 1988.

Superpower angle
"This is the same Israeli government, but it faces a different international situation. The pressure for concessions

will be far stronger," a European diplomat said.

"The Americans and the Russians are putting their heads together on regional conflicts throughout the world. The Middle East cannot remain immune," he said.

On the economic front, Peres as finance minister will have to grapple with the debts of the collective settlements and of the trade union-owned Koor conglomerate, which accounts for 17 per cent of Israeli industrial production.

Economic growth has slowed to a mere one per cent this year, industrial production is in decline and inflation, which the outgoing government slashed from more than 400 per cent in 1985 to just over 16 per cent in 1987, is creeping up again.

Bankers expect a 15 per cent devaluation of the shekel against the dollar next month and say the government will have to make major budget cuts to revive the economy.

Yet such cuts seem unlikely at a time when the Palestinian uprising is adding to defence costs, and recession and unemployment are cutting tax revenues and making it harder to lay off employees in the public sector, economists say.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraq's first test-tube baby born

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq witnessed its first test-tube baby Monday — a baby girl named Hibah, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported. "The baby is in sound health, weighs 3.5 kilograms and is 55 centimetres in height," Dr. Munther Al Barazanchi, in charge of embryo transplanting at Medical City Hospital, told INA. The baby was born by Caesarean section, the report said. The operation took place at one of Iraq's most prestigious medical establishments, the Medical City of Baghdad, said INA. The sperm injected to Hibah's mother were taken from the 32-year-old father, said INA. The couple turned to the test-tube method because the mother had a "weakness" in the ovaries and the father a low sperm count, INA said.

Britons urged to stay out of Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — Britain has told its nationals to stay out of Lebanon for their own safety. A British embassy statement broadcast late Monday by local radio stations said Britons already in the country should not go to west Beirut, the eastern Bekaa Valley, South Lebanon or north beyond the town of Tripoli. Any Britons in these areas should leave them as soon as possible, hmadcasters quoted the statement as saying. It also urged Britons not to use the international airport in west Beirut but to travel through the port of Jounieh. It was not immediately clear why London issued the new warning.

Group claims anti-Jewish attack

BEIRUT (AP) — The group that claimed the abduction of a missing Belgian physician in South Lebanon alleged Monday that it had torches a Jewish centre in Copenhagen. The new claim came in a typewritten statement in Arabic signed by "The Soldiers of Justice," the group that made its debut Sunday by claiming it was holding Dr. Jan Cools, who disappeared May 21. The latest statement, dated Dec. 19, was delivered in an envelope to a Western news agency in Beirut. It provided no information about the target of its alleged attack in Copenhagen, beyond saying it was "totally gutted" Dec. 11. There was a fire that Sunday at a Jewish retirement home. No casualties were reported and police said no cause determined.

Iranian theologians approve condoms

NICOSIA (AP) — Condoms, once sold under the counter at the chewing gum stands which dot every Iranian city, have been given the stamp of approval by the same government that banned them a decade ago. In a series of interviews published in the Farsi-language daily Kayhan, and carried by the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), leading theologians have been encouraging birth control. The agency quoted Mohammad Yazdi, a member of the respected Qom Theologians Society, as saying that "before the sperm settles in the womb, any kind of prevention is religiously permissible. Can we be proud of (a nation of) hungry Muslims who have to beg the infidels of the world for charity?" Another leading cleric, Asadollah Bayat, said that "reproduction is recommended in Islam, but not obligatory. Therefore, if a recommended act comes with plenty of dangerous and worrying side effects it can be stopped by the Islamic state." The side effects he was referring to, according to IRNA, are a population officially reported to be growing at an annual rate of 3.7 per cent, one of the highest in the world. The new decree on birth control is a significant departure from the government's previous line of encouraging procreation in an effort to increase the world's Muslim population.

3 extremists killed in Cairo

CAIRO (API) — Three Muslim fundamentalists, including one suspected of murdering a police officer, was killed late Monday in a fire exchange with police, the Middle East News Agency reported. The agency said Sherif Mohammad Al Sherif, 27, a clerk at a Cairo high school, was killed along with two accomplices during a police raid on his hideout, an apartment in Al Sahel district, a densely populated Cairo area. It said names and other information about Sherif's associates were to be announced Tuesday. The Interior Ministry, which handles internal security, said Sherif stabbed to death Essam Shams Dec. 8 in the Cairo working-class district of 'Ain Shams where police a day earlier launched a dawn security operation that netted 61 suspects on a tip about an alleged sabotage conspiracy. The killing of the police officer was believed to be a sequel to the dawn operation which was expanded following the death of Shams and yielded more than 300 arrests, including five members of a Muslim fundamentalist group blamed for the 1981 assassination of President Anwar Sadat.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:50 Programme review
15:55 Children's programmes
17:30 Educational programmes
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Cairo news message
18:15 Local series
18:50 Local programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
22:10 Wrestling
23:00 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Television magazine

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Champs Elysees
19:00 News in French
19:15 Aujourd'hui En Jordanie
19:30 News in Hebrew

20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Kate and Allie
21:10 Return Journey
22:00 News in English
22:20 Glass Babies

PRAYER TIMES

05:04
06:27 (Sunrise) Duha
14:18 Dhuhr
16:41 'Asr
18:03 Maghreb
18:03 'Isha

CHURCHES

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terrasanta Church Tel. 623266.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 635383, Tel.

628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822605.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
A gradual increase in temperature will occur and clouds appear on different altitudes. Winds will be south-westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:
Dr. Issa Haddad 897007
Dr. Mohamed Azzam 818911
Dr. Kayed Halayeh 793522
Dr. Mohammad Al Sawwa 732056
Firas pharmacy 661912
Firdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Naioukh pharmacy 635672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Jordan Valley 7 / 21
Deserts 1 / 15
Aqaba 8 / 19

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 9, Aqaba 19. Humidity readings: Amman 80 per cent, Aqaba 28 per cent.

NIGHT DUTY

Civil Defence Directorate 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630241
Rescue 199
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 198, 891228
Blood Bank 778303
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 843402
Public Security Directorate 639141
Company 648411, 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-52320
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-52000

EMERGENCIES

IBRD:
Dr. Ahmad Al Nagouri (—)
Al Sharaf pharmacy 985236
ZARQA:
Dr. Hisham Hyussat (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417
Civil Defence Directorate 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630241
Rescue 199
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 198, 891228
Blood Bank 778303
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 843402
Public Security Directorate 639141
Company 648411, 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-52320
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-52000

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 64281/6
Akheh Maternity, J. Amn. 64244/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642662
Madhat, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 815845
Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666177/57
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Mulajjem 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 773111/26
Army, Marja 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/20
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)83323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)91071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)98792
IBRD:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 500 / 400
Banana 350 / 300
Banana (Mukammal) 300 / 250
Beans 400 / 350
Cabbage 130 / 100
Carrots 240 / 200
Cauliflower 160 / 120
Cucumbers 300 / 250
Dates 500 / 400
Eggplant (large) 70 / 40
Eggplant (small) 220 / 160
Garlic 250 / 200
Grapefruit 160 / 100
Lemon 220 / 180
Marrow (large) 70 / 40
Marrow (small) 150 / 100
Orange (French) 300 / 250
Orange (Shammout) 300 / 250
Orange (local) 200 / 150
Onion (dry) 208 / 160
Pepper (hot) 300 / 250
Pepper (sweet) 300 / 250
Potato 240 / 200
Spinach 130 / 100
Mandarin 180 / 120
Tomatoes 260 / 200

Queen Noor to lay foundation stone for Al Amal Home in Yajouz



HM Queen Noor

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor will lay the foundation stone for the "Al Amal Home," a centre for the multi-disabled at a ceremony that will take place on Dec. 22.

The centre, at Yajouz, near Amman, will be set up on an eight dunum land to provide rehabilitation services and education to 150 residents aged between six and 20 years.

To be accepted for treatment and rehabilitation, residents should be proved by examination to be mentally handicapped and suffer from yet one or more handicaps. The centre

would also serve as a permanent home for those inmates whose cases are severe and can not be cared for at home.

The centre will be supplied with equipment to help in providing rehabilitation and physiotherapy services at nominal cost.

Mentally retarded children are currently being provided with such services at a rented building in Tlas Al Ali, provided by the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) which will finance the construction of the Yajouz centre.

Higher council discusses project for overhauling educational system

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday chaired a meeting at the Higher Council of Science and Technology to follow up the implementation of a project for overhauling the educational system in the country.

A range of subjects discussed at the meeting included the execution of a programme involving cooperation among Jordanian universities to provide proper qualification to Jordanian teachers and the work of the Advanced Teachers Training

College, which is supervised and operated by the Ministry of Higher Education.

The question of setting up a university to provide proper qualification and training to university graduates to serve as teachers in Jordanian schools was also taken up at the meeting.

Prince Hassan discussed the subject of creating a national centre to take charge of research in educational services to operate under the Higher Council of Science and Technology, and an institution to take charge of stu-

dies and provide consultancy services in this field. The latter project is to be carried out by Jordanian universities in cooperation with the Royal Scientific Society and is to be entrusted with the task of utilising human resources.

The meeting was attended by ministers of higher education, education, planning, as well as presidents of Jordanian universities and the Royal Scientific Society, secretaries general of the concerned ministries and other officials.

Plans underway for RJ privatisation

Ghandour calls for coordination, integration among Arab airlines

By Rania Atalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Royal Jordanian's (RJ) chairman Tuesday called for "coordination and integration" among Arab airlines in the East Mediterranean region, in order to counter the prospective challenge of Europe's integrated carriers in 1992.

"We are hopeful that by next year our dreams of reaching Arab integration in the aviation field will become a reality," RJ Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Ali Ghandour told a press conference on the occasion of the airline's 25th anniversary. "The 1992 wind of change is already blowing and it is very challenging for us."

Whereas calls for integration in the past had been "no more than slogans," the situation has now changed and competition was so tough that those who did not believe in integration would be "left out," Ghandour said.

In that sense, the RJ chairman added, Jordan on its own, and with its "limited capabilities," could not face up to the challenge of a unified Europe in the aviation field.

Technical integration, as well as joint long-distance routes between Arab airlines, could be the beginning of the road to facing that challenge, he added.

Privatisation

Ghandour said he expected the government to announce the privatisation of the national airline in early 1989, adding that a number of Jordanian and Arab financial institutions have already expressed interest in owning shares once the airline is turned into a public shareholding company.

"We now have, from the auditors, the complete study on the assets of the airline, a matter which will enable us to define the capital of the airline and the price of its shares," Ghandour explained, adding that the government will make available to the public the number of shares which it believes the market is capable of absorbing, without necessarily retaining a controlling

share. Ghandour put the maximum foreign participation in the shareholding process at 35 per cent and added that 10 per cent of the shares will be designated for RJ's 5,102 employees who will not be allowed to sell their shares before five years.

Frequent Jordanian fliers as well as travel agents who sell JD 100,000 or more worth of RJ tickets will also be entitled to shares.

Tourism promotion

RJ intends to increase its efforts in the promotion of tourism to Jordan, Ghandour said, and towards that end, it has designated one employee in each of its 98 offices around the world to initiate contact with potential customers. An agreement signed earlier with the Ministry of Tourism designated RJ offices abroad as official representatives of the ministry.

Ghandour said RJ has already agreed with the Freech chain, "Club Mediterra" on a project to build and administer a 600-bed tourist village in Aqaba, as well as two 120-bed hotels in Petra and Wadi Rum. RJ has also agreed with the German company "medical tours" to build a therapeutic resort for the treatment of skin diseases at the Dead Sea. It has plans to build an additional hotel in Aqaba.

JD 1.6m profit

The chairman forecast RJ's 1989 net profit at JD 1.6 million based on a JD 189.6 million revenue. The company's revenues for 1988 amounted to JD 132.4 million while its expenses totalled JD 130.5 million, resulting in a net profit of JD 1.929 million for that year.



Royal Jordanian Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Ali Ghandour Tuesday speaks to the press (Petra photo)

Ghandour said cooperation with banks and international financial institutions, which helped restructure RJ's financial structure, allowed the company to carry out leaseback deals on aircraft, enabling it to repay all \$276 million it owed to loans. "The airline is now 100 per cent free of any loans on aircraft," he said, resulting in an "improved financial situation."

New destinations

With two additional Airbus A310, expected to be delivered in 1989, RJ will add four new destinations to its network: Jakarta, Ankara, Cologne and Manila. In 1988, RJ introduced flights to Delhi and Calcutta in South Asia, in addition to Montreal and Miami in North America.

At present, RJ flies to 44 destinations with its 17 short, medium and long-range aircraft — including Boeing 727s and 747s, Lockheed TriStars and Airbus A310s. In 1990 and 1991 RJ is expected to receive six Airbus A320s.

RJ's advanced maintenance facilities, Ghandour said, enabled the airline to service aircraft of other carriers, including major

engine and airframe inspections.

Earlier this year, RJ locally conducted its first "D" check — a major inspection procedure — on the wide-bodied TriStar, and it hopes to carry out more of the same inspections in the future.

"RJ now has the capacity to take care of all its maintenance, a matter which decreases the cost, reflects on the efficiency of the airline and ultimately, on the passengers," Ghandour said.

To that effect, RJ has signed a maintenance contract with Syrian Airlines for the maintenance of the latter's Boeing 727s at the Queen Alia International Airport facilities. RJ also agreed with Air France to service that airline's Boeing 727 and 737 engines.

"This is a big achievement," Ghandour said. "RJ is the only airline in the area capable of doing such a job."

An RJ-sponsored yacht, Maiden Great Britain to sail the seas



The RJ-sponsored yacht, Maiden Great Britain to sail the seas

ing air rally with an "Aerostar" aircraft.

As for RJ's surprise on its 25th anniversary, Ghandour said all Jordanian citizens born on Dec. 15, 1963, will be entitled to a free First-Class ticket on RJ to any destination of their choice.

Jordan-Egypt council to meet

CAIRO (Petra, J.T.) — The Jordanian Egyptian Business Council (JEBEC) will hold a meeting at the Egyptian city of Luxor towards the end of the coming month, to look into the prospects of promoting cooperation between the two countries' private sectors and encourage more investment.

The meeting, the fourth of its kind by the council, will also study the possibility of, implementing joint projects in Egypt and Jordan, according to Mohammad Ghanem who

heads the Egyptian side to the coming meeting.

Ghanem said the two sides will focus mainly on developing tourism in the two countries through implementing joint projects and through maintaining and sponsoring cooperation between Egyptian and Jordanian tourist organisations, to promote their programmes for marketing tourist and archaeological sites abroad and through setting up tourist facilities such as tourist villages.

The Jordanian side to the

meeting will be led by Mamdouh Abu Hassan who is president of the Jordanian economists association.

Ghanem said the two sides will give their attention to subjects related to trade between the two countries, involving the private sectors, with a view to increasing the volume of exchanged goods.

The council's third meeting was held in Aqaba in February last year when the two sides discussed future operations and programmes to be implemented under the umbrella of the joint holding company engineered by the joint Jordanian Egyptian Higher Committee, to set up major joint projects and development schemes.

Jordanian-Omani committee to meet in early January

AMMAN (J.T.) — The joint Jordanian-Omani Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation will meet in Muscat early January to discuss means of bolstering ties and cooperation between the two countries.

An announcement there Monday said the two sides will be led to the talks by the ministers of industry and trade in the two countries who will discuss increases in the volume of trade exchange between Oman and Jordan and diversification of products.

Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tabbaa said that the joint committee will review steps taken in the implementation of resolutions and recommendations taken at the earlier committee meetings.

The Jordanian side, he said, will seek further imports of fresh Omani fish for Jordanian markets in the coming talks.

Last year Oman and Jordan signed a protocol in Amman designed to upgrade trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. The two sides also agreed to establish a joint Jordanian-Omani investment company.

According to an announcement

here Monday the general assembly of the Jordanian-Egyptian investment company, known as the Holding Company, will hold a meeting in Cairo in the coming week.

The meeting will be chaired by Tabbaa and Egyptian Minister of International Cooperation Maurice Makramallah. Jordan News Agency, Petra, said, the Cairo meeting will discuss projects to be carried out by the holding company including the lean meat, the farming seeds and the fishing industry projects.

Tabbaa and his Iraqi counterpart are to hold a meeting in three months time to work out an executive programme for unifying the Jordanian and Iraqi markets in the industrial field, in accordance with the minutes of the joint Jordanian-Iraqi Higher Committee meeting which ended in Baghdad Sunday.

The minutes stated that the two ministers, accompanied by teams from both sides will study existing industrial projects, look into means of speeding up and facilitating the flow of industrial products between Iraq and Jordan and the employment of Jordanian and Iraqi workers in either country.

Meeting discusses supervision of training at vocational centres

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day symposium on educational guidance and supervision of vocational training in the Arab World ended in Amman Tuesday.

Working papers, discussed by the delegates from four Arab countries as well as specialised organisations, dealt with supervision of training in the academic and vocational centres and pro-

grammes to be offered to students in the different stages of education, according to Wajih Al Farah, director of the Ministry of Education's Department of Research and Educational Development.

He said that recommendations, issued by the delegates, aimed at raising the efficiency of those involved in educational guidance,

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

PRINCE MOHAMMAD CONDOLES: His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Tuesday delegated the Karak Governorate police department director to convey his condolences to the Tarawneh family over the death of the late mother of Lt.-Gen. Khalid Al Tarawneh, director general of the Civil Defence Department. (Petra)

JABR RECEIVES IRAQI DELEGATION: Minister of Agriculture Youssef Hamdan Al Jabr met in his office Tuesday with an Iraqi delegation on a tour of Jordanian agricultural projects and discussed with them food security issues in the Arab World. The delegation leader, Shaker Mahmoud, said he was impressed by major farming schemes being implemented in the Kingdom, the Ministry of Agriculture's role in following up the implementation of such projects and its cooperation with the private sector. (Petra)

316 ACCIDENTS: A total of 316 accidents occurred in Jordan in the second week of December, causing the injury of 139 people, but no fatalities, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Public Security Department Tuesday. The bulletin said that most of the accidents involved cars trying to overtake each other and knocking down pedestrians. (Petra)

HAI HASSAN INVITED TO OMAN: Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan Tuesday received an invitation from his Omani counterpart Ahmad Ibn Suweidani to attend the 12th session of the Arab Satellite Corporation (Arabsat) general assembly meetings, due to be held in Muscat March 30. The invitation was delivered to Haj Hassan by the Omani charge d'affaire in Amman. (Petra)

ENVOY CONGRATULATES: Jordan's ambassador to Pakistan Fakhri Abu Taleb Tuesday congratulated Malek Miraj Khalid on his election as speaker of the Pakistani People's Assembly and discussed with him bilateral relations. (Petra)

N. YEMENI TEAM VISITS SSC: A delegation from the North Yemeni Social Security Corporation Tuesday called at the Social Security Corporation (SSC) office in Zarqa, where they were briefed on the SSC work. (Petra)

MADABA DEVELOPMENT: Investment expenditures in Madaba district totalled JD 6,104,715 during this year, including JD 3,506,975 spent on various development projects in Madaba development unit. These amounts were spent on social services benefiting citizens in Madaba district, including social development centres, schools, pavements and handicraft areas. (Petra)

NEW FINDS: The Department of Antiquities has discovered some buildings, clay and glass pots and some coins in Deir Abata area in the Karak Governorate, dating back to the Byzantine, Roman and Nabatean periods. (Petra)

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY: The Iraqi Solar Energy Research Centre has finalised the final designs for a joint Iraqi-Jordanian scientific research station to be set up in the border area. The project aims to provide natural alternatives for energy, such as solar and wind energy, that can be utilised in the remote areas as alternatives for operating plants and factories. (Petra)

TWO NEW POST OFFICES: The Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications will open next week two integrated post offices in Jabar Al Sirhan and Rifayiat towns in the Ma'raq Governorate (Petra)

ENVOY ELECTED COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: Jordan's Ambassador to Tunisia and its Permanent Representative to the Arab League Talal Sata'an Al Hassan was elected Tuesday chairman of the Arab Committee in charge of coordination of Arab participation in the Seville International Exhibition, and Spain's celebrations of the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America. (Petra)

CHARITY BAZAAR: The Jordanian Women Federation Tuesday held a charity bazaar at Salt Community College, to mark the International Voluntary Day. The three-day bazaar includes handicrafts, flower arrangements and embroideries. (Petra)

Meeting to discuss badia development

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A two-day meeting to discuss means of developing the badia regions of Jordan will open at the town of Azraq east of here Wednesday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The meeting will review four working papers dealing with the development of natural resources, agriculture, human resource, social services and infrastructure in the semi-desert region.

The Azraq meeting will be an extension to a series of earlier meetings held in the north, the south and the central regions of Jordan under the patronage of Prince Hassan, and the comprehensive development meeting that was held on Nov. 28 under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein to promote the

local councils' role in the development process of the Kingdom.

The meetings were also designed to ensure further participation by all sectors in the development process over the coming years, and to coordinate programmes with various ministries and government departments.

Azraq is located in the midst of the badia areas, in the eastern parts of the Kingdom, and is inhabited by bedouin tribes and spotted with numerous population settlements. The badia region, of nearly 70,000 square kilometres in area, forms some 77 per cent of the total area of the Kingdom and, according to experts, contains huge underground water resources. Its pastures could be developed to increase

animal wealth on a large scale.

Some 77,000 people live in the badia regions of Jordan, inhabiting 125 population settlements and, experts say, the area has no less than 250 million cubic metres of unexploited phosphate, white cement, oil, natural gas and oil shale.

Community centre opens

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Social Development Tuesday announced the opening of a community centre at Muwaqqar, around 25 kilometres south east of Amman, to help develop the local community in the semi-desert region.

Anwar Beirut, the director of the ministry's Social Development Department, said that the centre was set up in implementation of royal directives for de-

veloping the badia region.

The community centre, he said, will cooperate with other government departments in providing services to the local population, who will be encouraged to carry out development projects in the region.

The centre will help spread awareness among the public and try to raise the cultural, health, social and agricultural levels through training courses, and constant guidance, Beirut said.

Muwaqqar District Governor Samir Shahin said the centre will serve as a starting point for social development projects in the region. He said the Muwaqqar Municipality had offered the land and a building to house the community centre and pledged to provide all basic services.

Ground teams continue fight against locusts

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Jeddah-based anti-locust centre has reported that large swarms of desert locusts invaded Al Jouf, Tabouk, Jizan and Imleth in Saudi Arabia and that other swarms reached the Riyadh region to the east.

The information was sent in a telephone to Dr. Salem Al Lawzi, secretary general of the Ministry of Agriculture which has been spearheading efforts to eliminate locusts that invaded Jordan last week.

According to the telephone message, the locusts could be facing east-ward towards Kuwait, Iraq and the United Arab Emirates, and that operations to fight off the dangerous insects were continuing.

Lawzi said that Jordanian ground teams were still carrying on the fight against the swarms that entered Jordanian territory and that air surveillance was being maintained along the border with Saudi Arabia.

Lawzi said that new swarms of

desert locusts have been spotted at Wadi Gharamil, Umm Zaqqoub, Ouja and Khasba in the south eastern regions of the Kingdom, and that ground teams Tuesday embarked on a campaign to eliminate the pests.

Locusts were first reported to have invaded Jordan last Wednesday, and the Ministry of Agriculture said that 20 teams supplied with special equipment and pesticides were at work combating the insects.

The minister of agriculture issued appeals to world organisations and friendly nations to extend assistance to Jordan in order to help it carry out the task of eliminating the dangerous insects.

Only Kuwait and the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) have already responded, with the former supplying Jordan with two tonnes of pesticides and the latter donating \$500,000 towards bolstering the Kingdom's current endeavour.

Jinnah's anniversary

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Pakistan Graduates Club, in collaboration with the Pakistani embassy in Amman, will be celebrating the 12th birth anniversary of the Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, founder of Pakistan on Dec. 25, 1988. The celebration will be held under the patronage of Dr. Awad Khleifat, Minister of Youth.

Speakers on the occasion will include Ambassador of Pakistan Saghir Hussein Syed, Akram Zuaiter, president of the Royal Committee for Jerusalem Affairs; Dr. Sa'd Abu Dayyeh of the Yarmouk University; Dr. Lal Baha Ali of the University of Jordan; Dr. Munther Siam, president of the Pakistan Graduates Club; Dr. Fawzi Al Samhour, former club president and Mrs. Rihad Ayyad.

U.S. firm to install air surveillance radar equipment at Aqaba airport

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — An American firm Tuesday signed a contract with the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications to install radar equipment designed to provide 24-hour air surveillance at Aqaba International Airport.

The two-stage project is expected to cost \$10,283,964 and will be implemented in 24 months from now, in accordance with terms of the contract signed by Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan and a representative of the American firm.

Upon signing the contract, Haj Hassan said the project was of vital importance for the port city which has become one of the major tourist attractions in the region, requiring most up-to-date services by land and air.

The project's first stage, the minister said, entails installing a dual radar system, setting up a radar control unit complete with radar screens, video recording equipment and communication equipment, as well as a power generating unit.

The radar installed in the first stage can provide coverage of an area extending 108 kilometres away from Aqaba, and can deal simultaneously with 256 different aircraft, according to the

minister. He said the second stage of the project entails installing a secondary radar system that can provide coverage of an area extending as far as 325 kilometres from the port city.

The first stage, he added, will be completed in 15 months, while the second in 24 months.

The project will be financed through a loan provided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

SECURITY IN ZARQA: Director of Zarqa Police Department Tuesday chaired a meeting held at the Maassum Quarter Police Station and discussed a number of issues relevant to the duties of the newly formed People's Security Council which will be charged with assisting the security authorities in safeguarding security, and submitting reports on all problems facing citizens in the Zarqa Governorate. (Petra)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by Friends of Plastic Art in Gulf countries at the National Gallery.
- ★ The youth's art exhibition which displays 101 paintings showing the different aspects of social life in Jordan at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Jordanian fine arts exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition on Lord Byron, the English poet, surveying his life and work, at the British Council.
- ★ An exhibition of works by Contemporary Arab Artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.

BAZAAR

- ★ The Balqa Governorate's Jordan Women's Federation displays handicrafts, flower arrangements and embroideries at the Salt Society College.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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The unique summit

THE NINTH summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council is also the first of its kind. It is meeting at a time when there is no war in the region. Indeed, there is no shooting war anywhere in the world. This is an immense improvement in the regional as well as the world climate. There is certainly some considerable room for ease. But none for euphoria or complacency. The wars may have stopped yet peace — dependable peace — has still to be worked for. Four months after the ceasefire went into effect in the Iran-Iraq war, the parties have still to settle down to pave the way for peace. In the days that lie ahead GCC's peace-promoting efforts are going to count for even more than in the past. When peace returns in its fullness, it would need redoubled support to render it durable. GCC's contribution will make all the difference.

The breakthrough on the Palestine front is going to be as demanding as it has been dramatic with Washington seeing light after all. The outlook in the Lebanon is still quite worrisome but there is relief in the thought that it could have been unendurably worse. Political problems and peace-related obligations are going to cut the GCC's task pretty clearly for it. While it would be no small privilege to be of service to the cause of peace and prosperity in the region, there will be full realisation that the obligations in this regard are going to place heavy responsibilities on the shoulders of the GCC leadership. That these shoulders are quite capable to bear these burdens with distinction should be in no doubt after the world has seen the manner in which the GCC has steered its course through the turbulent and strife-filled years since the first summit of this community way back in 1981.

The end to the war in the region has released a vast volume of energies and resources to enable the GCC to undertake ambitious programmes for the development within the Gulf community. While excess of enthusiasm for standardisation and uniformity can lead to dullness, even stultifying, there are areas in which cooperation and coordination can be productive of wholesome fruits. Experts from the member states have been studying these possibilities for some time. Now may be the moment to take them up with a greater measure of seriousness, enabling planners to think in terms of targets and precise timetables. In the fields of information, education (higher and research), health and culture the Gulf countries cannot be brought too close. These are all fields of intellectual activity. Cross-fertilisation should be the name of the game. Evolution of common terminology and promotion of compatible standards would have the effect of acceleration of progress. And that is what the cooperation programmes should be all about — The Kuwait Times.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily came out Tuesday with an editorial entitled "the Israeli plot", warning the world community in general and the Arabs in particular against the current manoeuvres now underway in the process leading to the formation of a new Israeli government. The paper noted that a decision by the two major parties in Israel: the Likud and Labour to set up a coalition government without the religious parties was designed to stall peace efforts. It said that the two parties can never reach agreement on a settlement for the Palestine issue and therefore they chose to cooperate in forming a new government that would be paralysed as to the Arab-Israeli question and would never take a decision concerning peace. Let alone meaningful talks with the PLO. The two major parties are in agreement on one thing: that they should never agree on a formula to ensure peace, and so they have obviously decided to set up a coalition that would never take any decision concerning the Palestinian question, the paper noted. It said that this is a dangerous trend since it would lay real obstacles in the path of peace and could delay the U.S.-PLO dialogue and present further difficulties in the path of a permanent settlement.

Writing in Al Ra'i daily, columnist Abdul Rahim Omar tackles the same question with a stress on Israel's continued process of killing Arabs under its rule. The ruling Zionists in Tel Aviv are blinded by their fanaticism and their lust for killing the Palestinian people, not caring for the views of the outside world nor giving any respect to the will of the international community and any principles and laws, the writer notes. He says that the Zionists are horrified by their isolation from the rest of the world and appalled at the idea of a U.S.-PLO dialogue, and are therefore to take vengeance on the innocent population. The writer calls on the international community to help stop Israel's assassination of the Palestinians and put an end to Zionists' atrocities that are still impeding the peace process.

Al Dstour daily commented Tuesday on a decision by the European Community to take an initiative to solve the Middle East problem by holding contacts directly with the Palestinians. This is a first and unprecedented step on the part of the Europeans to put their ideas into practice and it is hoped that it would constitute a constructive move towards a lasting settlement, the paper said. It is hoped that the Europeans will pave the way for an international peace conference, now that the U.S.-PLO dialogue is getting underway and the climate is ripe for such a conference in which the Europeans themselves and the concerned parties in the conflict should take part, the paper added. The paper described the European initiative as designed to maintain the current political momentum, opening further avenues to peace and ending the sufferings of the Palestinian people. Europe, the paper said, carries an important political weight in world affairs, qualifying it to play a leading role in the affairs of the Middle East and helping to end the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Sawt Al Shaab daily wrote on the quest of Israel's major parties to set up a coalition government which, it said, will be oriented against the peace process. The leaders of both the Likud and Labour have pledged to maintain an iron-fist policy in confronting the uprising in the occupied Palestinian land and in dealing with all world pressures to make peace with the Arabs and give the Palestinian people their legitimate rights. It said that the isolation from the rest of the world which Israel has begun to feel is now driving the Zionist leaders into further repressive actions against the Palestinians; and the coming coalition is bound to be oriented towards committing further atrocities, a situation which calls for U.N. intervention to save the Palestinian population from such criminal actions.

With 8 weeks to go, final stage begins for Afghanistan

By Oliver Wates
Reuters

ISLAMABAD — It could be the beginning of the end of Afghanistan's war.

The bombing of guerrilla-held villages, the rocketing of government-held towns goes on.

But the attention of the players has switched to the negotiations table. After nine years of shooting at each other, the Soviet Union and Afghan rebels are finally talking.

But time is fast running out. Only eight weeks remain before the last Soviet soldier is due to leave Afghanistan by February 21 and the talks have barely started.

"There is complete uncertainty for us right now," Naim Majrooh, editor of an exiles' magazine, said. "We don't know who is going to take power, there's no agreement."

The two sides have barely begun to tackle the central issue: Does the People's Democratic Party (PDDA), which Moscow intervened in December 1979 to keep in power, have any role in the future of Afghanistan?

The Mujahideen guerrillas have no doubt. They say 1.5 million Afghans have been killed, five million driven to exile abroad, villages and farms destroyed in their thousands — how can they be asked to share power with the people responsible?

"This is not acceptable to us, or to anyone who loves peace and justice," rebel leader Burhanuddin Rabbani said Sunday.

The Kremlin is equally adamant — the PDDA, whatever their past misadventures, is not to blame for a Western-inspired conflict and must be a partner in any coalition.

There was not a hint of agreement on this issue at the first round of talks in Saudi Arabia early this month. The second round is to be held in Islamabad, before the end of December, according to Rabbani.

If the talks fail, it looks like a fight to the finish once the Soviet troops go. Both the rebels in their Pakistani bases and President Najibullah's government in Kabul seem confident.

But many Afghan and foreign observers fear the country would break up into warring zones. The PDDA would split into its rival Khalqi and Parchami factions, while long-standing mutual hatreds shatter the main seven-party rebel alliance.

"The worst scenario is a bloodbath, a rush for Kabul, a massacre like you've never seen before," an experienced Asian diplomat said.

Rabbani, the current alliance leader, says such fears are unfounded. The Mujahideen have already made contingency plans for an interim government to take over peacefully, he said.

U.S. Ambassador Robert Oakley, representing the rebels' most generous ally, is certain the government will fall.

"It will take a while before cities like Jalalabad and Kandahar and then Kabul itself collapse," he said in an interview with the Pakistani daily The Nation. "But they will, and they will collapse as much from within as from without."

"I think the resistance (rebels) would be ready to negotiate a political settlement and let us hope the Soviets are," he said. "But if they don't, it means that it is going to be very confused." Western Afghan-watchers feel

the Soviet team, headed by top Kremlin adviser Yuri Vorontsov, is on weak ground. Agreement or no agreement, their troops will be gone in eight weeks, barring a Soviet volteface of undreamt-of proportions.

A massacre of its allies would have an uncalculable effect on Moscow's world standing, they say. "It's a case (for the Soviet Union) of tawling around for the best alternative," one diplomat commented.

The Mujahideen position is not comfortable either, according to the Western experts. Despite the best efforts of Pakistan, the United States and Western European supporters over eight years, the alliance is riven by mutual hatreds.

In the absence of a political settlement, the parties could well

spend more energy fighting each other than the PDDA.

"It's a mess," the diplomat said. "Mind you, the regime is in an equally bad state, shaky to say the least. There are already many links between the Mujahideen and army officers."

"So far international divisions have prevented an effective solution to the problem of how to replace the regime with a broad-based democratic government acceptable to the Afghan people," Majrooh commented in his magazine's latest issue.

"Both the resistance and the Soviets are running short of time in which to put any plans they may have into action."

"We're in an endgame situation," a top Pakistan official said. "There will be lots and lots of ups and downs and going round in circles."

Burin and Bracha: The symmetry of fear

By Joel Greenberg

BURIN — The muffled sound of the explosion, followed by cries of grief, reverberated through the hills as a steady drizzle fell on this village. On a wall, someone had hastily spray-painted a Star of David and the Hebrew word: "Revenge."

Hussein Najjar, whose son was killed after he hattered to death a Jewish settler and fatally shot a soldier, watched from a hillside porch as the house in which he had lived for 30 years was reduced to rubble.

An hour later, at Bracha, on the hill overlooking Burin, thousands of grieving settlers walked behind the body of their colleague. Ya'acov Parag, the

land-warden killed in the latest eruption of the smoldering struggle here over land and resources.

Grief hung over Burin and Bracha like the fog that enveloped them. Accounts in Burin of the fatal incident contradicted those in Bracha, reflecting symmetrical fears that have locked Jews and Arabs here in a cycle of death.

Hussein Najjar said his son, Hamdan, was a religious man, straight as an arrow, who observed all the commandments of Islam, including daily prayer and fasts, and was never involved in any violence. He was unmarried, a labourer who had returned to his village to herd his family's sheep on his family's land.

The same tract was claimed by

Bracha, which Najjar says was built on his clan's ancestral soil. On occasion, said Najjar, when Hamdan or his brothers herded sheep into the area, they would be chased away by a man called "Ya'acov" and other settlers, who sometimes backed up their threats with curses and blows with fists and clubs. Once, Najjar said, Hamdan returned from the field with bruises on his face caused by "Ya'acov," and a month ago the settler opened fire at the flock, killing 20 sheep.

On Tuesday, Hamdan and Ya'acov had their last encounter. According to Najjar, Ya'acov ordered the shepherd out, and was about to attack him when Hamdan lifted a rock in self-defence. The shots fired later were heard from the village, and the sheep were seen meandering home alone.

Fear of settlers has gripped Burin. Occupants of one pock-marked home with freshly smashed windows said the damage was done by settlers from neighbouring Yitzhar, who hurled stones and opened fire early Tuesday, apparently after their cars were stoned. Smashed windows could be seen in other buildings.

After the fatal incident, Najjar said, settlers on the road into Burin fired shots at his car, forced him out, and pushed the vehicle off the road.

In Bracha, it was a different story altogether. Ya'acov Parag,

a father of three, was remembered as a dedicated man, a religious scribe who in recent months had returned to the soil, devoting himself to watching over and developing the agricultural lands of his settlement.

An article reprinted from the settlers' journal Nekuda, and distributed among the mourners, quoted Parag as saying that "agricultural work makes the ties to this place more deeply rooted... Agricultural places are not abandoned... Our settlement is blessed with an abundance of land all around... We should not see the intifada as a disruption. It should spur us to keep moving ahead. We should continue to travel, build and live normally."

In one of the homes, settlers recalled occasional problems with Arab shepherds trespassing on Bracha's "property," but said matters had never degenerated into violence.

In any event, said the settlers, it would be a mistake to present Parag's death as the result of a land dispute. It was apparently a planned ambush by more than one person.

"They didn't need a specific reason to attack Ya'acov," said one man. "They hated him like they hate all the settlers, like they hate Jews. The attacker didn't just kill Ya'acov, he also fired at the soldiers. He simply wanted to kill Jews. They're just waiting to attack us whenever they can." — The Jerusalem Post.

The present legacy of the Last European War

By Horst Muhleisen

TWO world wars made their mark on the first half of our century; their aftermath is still with us.

Those who fought in and went through the First World War first referred to it as the Great War, then as the World War.

What they had experienced was a war that transcended all conventional ideas of warfare as thought out and written up by Clausewitz.

The concept of war was extended to accommodate the Great War as contemporaries had experienced it. But was the 1914-18 war really a world war?

It would be more appropriate to refer to it as the last European war. The reasons seem self-evident. The origins of the war lay in a clash between European powers.

The war was waged on European battlefields, and although a non-European great power, the United States, decided its outcome it was still a European war. Marshal Foch, the French commander-in-chief, stressed that it was not an American victory.

While accepting U.S. assistance he maliciously referred to it as "the auxiliary forces of our friends," which was an accurate description of the position.

The Americans may have been shipped over to continental Europe but their forces were auxiliaries, and no more.

The supreme commanders of the Entente wanted to be on their own. General Patton, the U.S. commander, was unable to gain acceptance.

Yet despite this proviso the Great War was the "primal catastrophe" of our century, as George F. Kennan put it. It was a major worldwide conflict, a European war that shook the entire world.

Its causes were, in a nutshell, imperialism, nationalism and competition. Between them they put paid to a shaky system of European states.

This is not a viewpoint that has merely occurred to observers in retrospect. Back in January 1918 former Reich Chancellor Theobald von Bethmann-Hollweg wrote to Prince Max of Baden, later the last Imperial Chancellor.

"The nations cannot be absolved of their sins as long as mankind does not resolutely turn its back on the circumstances that gave rise to this war and aims at replacing them with something else."

"Imperialism, nationalism and economic materialism, which have been the determining factors of the policies pursued by all nations for the past generation, set themselves targets the pursuit of which by each individual nation was only possible at the expense of a general clash."

Interests clashed. Conflicts occurred. The German Reich, ruled since 1888 by a coxcomb of a Kaiser, was in the throes of becoming a major industrialised country.

It had grown stronger than its neighbours, who viewed the new

Germany with mistrust.

Conversely, the Reich felt it was surrounded by great powers that encroached and threatened it. Alliances were formed, France joined forces with Russia, Germany with Austria.

Political crises occurred, eight shortly before war broke out. War seemed desirable yet at the same time it was feared.

The large-scale European war was triggered by a clash between Austria and Russia. Both were nervous and overreacted, partly because they realised they could no longer cope with their domestic problems.

The state was threatened from within. In this state of affairs common sense was no longer possible.

As for Germany, the Kaiser's erratic behaviour had made its mark on foreign policy. He undermined all attempts to bring about changes in the political system.

Germany was increasingly manoeuvred into the position graphically described by Kurt Riezler, von Bethmann-Hollweg's secretary, in his diary. In July 1914 the Reich was isolated.

A month later the armies were mobilised and sent into battle, with Entente forces facing those of the Central Powers.

But gone were the days when it was enough to send 100,000 hired mercenaries under reliable leadership into battle, as described by Voltaire in Candide.

So were the days when peace and quiet were the citizen's bounden duty when His Majesty had lost a battle.

In September 1914 the Allies came to treaty terms in London. They were, initially, Britain, France, Russia, Serbia and Japan.

They were joined by Belgium and, in 1917, the United States. Italy came into the war on the Allies' side in 1915-16. Rumania in 1916. Switzerland, the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and Spain remained neutral throughout the war.

The Allies faced the Central Powers Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey and, from 1915, Bulgaria.

Major fronts

The major fronts were in Europe: the western and eastern fronts, the south (Italy), the south-east (Serbia, Rumania, Saloniki).

Important secondary fronts were opened up when Turkey came into the war. They included the Caucasus, Iraq, Palestine and, for a while in 1915-16, Gallipoli and the Dardanelles.

Warfare in the colonies was of no more than marginal importance.

No-one knew what war would mean in the 20th century and what dimensions it would assume. The crises that preceded it, the Moroccan crises and the Balkan wars, had probably led to mistaken assumptions where a future large-scale war was concerned.

Total mobilisation began, having been made possible only by

the degree of industrialisation achieved. War moved into new zones, changed its face, became a war of technology.

Technology mobilised the world and was the hallmark of war on land, at sea and, for the first time, in the air.

New weapons and forms of warfare were developed: the machine-gun, the flame-thrower, barrage bombardment. As recently as in October 1982 Adolf Heusinger, Bundeswehr inspector-general from 1957 to 1961 and a First World War lieutenant and company commander, noted in conversation that the changing face of war had not been realised.

There was only one weapon that really worked: the rake of machine-gun fire. But technical development progressed as the war went on.

Infantry was motorised, signals units modernised, tanks, gas, submarines and battleships, fighters, bomber squadrons and airships joined the fray.

The face of war changed entirely. On the home front too nationalism and imperialism mobilised nations to an unprecedented degree.

Total war was the slogan. It was coined by Field-Marshal Ludendorff, the "motor of the

world war," to quote his close associate Joachim von Sölpnagel.

Yet despite this technical outlay (naval engagements, for instance) the initial German offensives ground to a halt and trench warfare reigned supreme from September 1914.

The war of attrition, battles in which superior equipment was decisive, began in February 1916. The character of the war changed yet again. 'Verdun' will always remain a memorial to this madness.

A further change was that the individual soldier was increasingly relegated to a minor role. The unknown soldier, identifiable only by his dog tag, came into his own.

Arnold Zweig entitled his 1935 novel *Erziehung vor Verdun* (Education before Verdun). It educated a generation to kill and to die.

The German supreme command sought to change the course of the war, as Ludendorff put it. But they did so in vain.

The Central Powers made a temporary breakthrough with offensives in Poland, Lithuania and Latvia, but they failed to turn the tide. So did the 1916 campaign against Rumania.

Sense of big change in air as NATO approaches 40th anniversary

By Richard Balmforth
Reuters

BRUSSELS — These are heady days for NATO as it prepares to take the first steps towards a glittering prize on the horizon — an equal balance of forces in Europe with the Warsaw Pact.

By announcing unilateral force cuts, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev appears to have tacitly admitted what NATO has asserted for years — that the Soviet bloc's firepower is so great it can afford to cut tanks and guns in Europe without seeking anything in return from NATO.

At NATO's squat, barracks-like headquarters on the outskirts of Brussels, Gorbachev's Dec. 7 announcement to the U.N. General Assembly has added to a sense of expectation and huge impending change.

Not, however, euphoria. For it is far from being a gift-wrapped birthday present for the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation as it heads towards its 40th anniversary next-April.

If not exactly booty-trapped, officials concede it poses major challenges for the Western allies in the coming years.

If not exactly booty-trapped, officials concede it poses major challenges for the Western allies in the coming years.

"They were skillfully put together proposals that go a long way to meeting the demands of NATO. But they lay down challenges," said Colonel Andrew Duncan of the London-based International Institute for Strategic

Studies.

In his U.N. speech, Gorbachev pledged to cut Soviet armed forces by half a million men, disband six tank divisions in Eastern Europe and pull out thousands of big guns, planes and other rapid-attack equipment by 1991.

The stuff that NATO generals dream about, the pledge seemed to provide a perfect backdrop for conventional stability talks (CST) next year between the two military blocs when the West will press for even bigger cuts in Warsaw Pact armour.

NATO has said it wants the two blocs to reduce their tank strength to 20,000 apiece, meaning massive cuts for the Warsaw Pact, which currently has over 50,000 tanks, but only slight reductions for NATO, which has about 22,000.

Gorbachev's polished performance, however, only adds to the alliance's near-obsession with the public relations challenge he poses and the fear he may be getting his message through to Western publics more effectively than their own governments are.

There is a distinct feeling in the alliance that the days of barping on about the Soviet threat are gone and that other ways of handling the so-called Gorbachev effect have to be found.

In a report published earlier this month, NATO's defence planning committee said it was clear that "informed publics will no longer accept what they see as an alarmist 'threat' approach."

"Instead, a more subtle,

reasoned and persistent message must be developed and presented," it said.

Despite initial U.S. reaction to the contrary, many officials believe Gorbachev's gesture will have to be matched by the United States in some way in the next two years if Moscow is not to reap maximum world publicity with its force cuts.

The Soviet leader catches NATO at an awkward time as the United States is trying to cajole its European allies into spending more money on defence.

Responding to U.S. congressional pressure, the allies have pledged to renew their efforts to meet military targets and programmes to take more of the burden from the United States.

But this commitment may be harder now to justify to Western publics as talk turns to slashing conventional forces rather than stiffening them.

That "will remain a difficult job," Manfred Woerner, NATO's dour secretary-general, said this month.

The Gorbachev move could also seriously complicate NATO's plans to modernise its short-range nuclear forces, particularly the ageing Lance missile.

These plans have already divided the allies with West Germany — where most of the new weapons would be sited — being the least enthusiastic.

Now of Warsaw Pact's battlefield firepower being slashed may rekindle opposition by Western anti-nuclear groups, especially in West Germany.

"It will be all that much harder for NATO to implement modernisation," said Duncan.

More critically for NATO, the debate could open the question of whether the alliance needs a nuclear weapon at all once the armies and guns of the two blocs are evenly matched.

NATO, arguing that the nuclear weapon is the only effective deterrent to war, says it will always need nuclear defences.

But officials acknowledge a major public relations exercise may be required to convince Western publics of this.

Other dangers lurk for the alliance on the road to a conventional force balance.

What if the Soviet Union proposes at the negotiating table major asymmetric reductions that NATO, to the puzzlement of its publics, cannot accept?

NATO military committee chief General Wolfgang Altenburg recently expressed the fear that the Warsaw Pact might suggest cuts that were bigger on the Eastern side but militarily would leave the West in a proportionally worse-off position.

And further in the background is the realisation that cuts in Soviet forces in Eastern Europe may have to be matched one-day with reductions in U.S. troops in West Germany — a prospect guaranteed to stir nervousness among the Europeans.

"We know where we want to go. But getting there is not going to be easy and there's going to be a lot of heart-ache," a NATO official said.

1988: The decade's worst natural disasters

By George Jahn
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — At 11:41 a.m. Dec. 7, Alla Poghosyan heard an unusual noise in her fourth-floor residence in the Armenian city of Stepanavan, and the building began to shake.

Her next recollection was being rescued from the rubble that had been her apartment building. "I put up my hand, and somebody took it," she said from her hospital bed in Yerevan, the Armenian capital.

Time stood still for hundreds of thousands of other Armenians as the first shock of an earthquake that measures 6.9 on the Richter scale toppled schools, factories and homes in a string of communities. Hundreds of other buildings collapsed in the aftermath 4 minutes 17 seconds later. Aid poured into the region from around the Soviet Union and the world, but the relief efforts were often chaotic. Crashes of planes carrying relief supplies and soldiers killed 78 Soviets and seven Yugoslavs.

The Soviet quake, which may have killed as many as 60,000 people, was the deadliest earthquake in a decade and one of the worst disasters of 1988. But 1988 was deadly in Africa, too, where hundreds of thousands may have died from famine, and in Asia, where flooding took a large human toll.

Thousands more died in rail and

sea disasters and in fires, but none of those matched the death toll in Africa.

Foreign relief officials in the Sudan said that hundreds of thousands of people had starved in that African country since June, with no word on when the tragedy would end.

In some towns, byenas dragged away emaciated corpses, with those still living too weak to fend them off.

Death was borne by killer winds in Latin America and the Philippines.

Hurricane Gilbert claimed about 80 lives in September across Mexico's Yucatan peninsula, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

Hurricane Joan struck in October, killing more than 110 in Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia and Venezuela.

Typhoons Ruby, Tees and Skip took more than 600 lives in the Philippines in October and early November.

Flooding inundated three-quarters of Bangladesh, killing more than 1,000. In Brazil, about 300 people died in flash floods and mudslides in late February.

Floods in southern Thailand killed more than 350 in November. The death toll was expected to more than double after missing were accounted for.

In the world's worst oilfield disaster July 6, an explosion and blaze at the Piper Alpha oil rig

claim 166 lives off the coast of Scotland.

"It was a case of fry and die or jump and try," said Roy Carey, who leaped into the North Sea to escape the flames.

A June 21 conflagration sparked by flames from a food stall near the Egyptian town of Assiut caused 47 deaths.

In Mexico City, 68 people died Dec. 11 when a blaze sparked by illegal fireworks tore through a marketplace and adjacent buildings.

Burma experienced its worst blaze ever March 20, when winds whipped flames through the city of Lashio, killing 113.

Nearby Nepal was the stage for a massive earthquake that also rocked parts of India. The quake Aug. 21 killed close to 2,000, while another tremor — in China's southwestern Yunnan province Nov. 5 — claimed more than 900 lives.

Airline crashes

Civil airliners crashed in several nations. In China, the Jan. 18 crash of a turboprop flown by the national airline CAAC killed all 108 people on board.

In India, an Indian Airlines jetliner crashed early Oct. 19, killing 130 of those on board. In Colombia, an Avianca jetliner crashed into a mountainside March 18, triggering a landslide and bursting into flame. The death toll: all 137 aboard.



A father cries over the body of his son who was killed in the earthquake.

Airborne calamity of a different sort killed 69 people at a U.S. air force base at Ramstein, West Germany on Aug. 28.

They were among a crowd of 200,000 watching an Italian jet stunt team. Suddenly, three of the low-flying planes collided during an intricate manoeuvre, sending the fiery wreck of one cartwheeling through the spectators.

Sixty-nine people died and 500 were injured.

"It was horrible, horrible, a huge shock," recounted Krista Banks, a waitress at the base. "It's going to take a long time to forget this."

Another festive occasion — a March 12 soccer game — turned to horror in Nepal, in a stadium stampede that killed 93 people. India had its worst boat disaster on record Aug. 6, when a

ferry capsized on the Ganges River, spilling more than 500 people into swollen waters. More than 400 passengers were presumed dead.

In China, two major boat accidents in southwestern Sichuan province within four days in July left more than 150 dead and another 130 missing and presumed dead.

Mass transit disasters on land also took their toll in China.

An express train enroute from Kunming to Shanghai derailed Jan. 24, killing 90 people. Forty-two people had died after a bus rolled off a remote mountain road just six days earlier.

In India, more than 100 people lost their lives July 8, when the crowded Indian Express tumbled into a lake near the town of Quilon. Paris experienced its worst rail

calamity ever 11 days before that. A commuter train whose brakes apparently failed slammed into another train at a busy station, killing nearly 40 people.

And a three-train collision at a south London rail station Dec. 12 killed 33 people in Britain's worst rail accident since 1975.

Disaster of another kind set a 25-year record in West Germany. Fifty-one miners died in the June 1 explosion that rocked a coal pit in the city of Kassel, in the country's worst accident of its kind since 1963.

In China, two gas blasts — one Aug. 5 in Liandan county, the other July 17 in Yunnan province — killed 79 miners.

And in Islamabad, Pakistan, 93 people died when an ammunition depot exploded April 10. Government officials suspected sabotage.



Children sit on the ruins of their home in Leninakan after the massive earthquake.

Let Rome go to ruin, says historian

By Paul Holmes
Reuters

ROME — What is the point of having some of the world's most celebrated monuments if you don't look after them?

Italian historian Luigi Firpo asked that question about Rome and came up with his own answer. There is no point.

Firpo has set Roman temples ablaze by suggesting the eternal city is so incapable of tackling its biggest problem — traffic pollution — that the state should cut off funds to restore its monuments or even move the capital elsewhere.

Firpo, a 73-year-old Republican Party member of parliament, was a prime mover behind the defeat of a parliamentary motion in November to give Rome an extra 200 billion lire (\$150 million) in 1989 and 1990 for restoration work. "Rome is rotten to the core. It is suffocating in car exhaust fumes. In a situation like this there is no point carrying out prestigious restoration projects,"

said Firpo, who comes from the northern city of Turin.

His broadside has been dismissed as totalitarian by Rome Mayor Pietro Giubilo and with the literary equivalent of a Roman shrug of the shoulders by the city's leading contemporary novelist, Alberto Moravia.

"Rome has always had the privilege of being a living ruin," Moravia said. But the attack may well have struck a chord with the restorers. They say they are fighting a losing battle to protect one of civilisation's great, open-air museums from some of the filthiest fumes and most chaotic traffic in Europe.

Aurelius kept indoors

Experts are currently pleading with the city council not to put the gilded bronze equestrian statue of philosopher-emperor Marcus Aurelius back in the open after eight years of analysis and restoration. They say the pollution would destroy it.

The 1,800-year-old monument, a symbol of Rome's pride and the

only equestrian statue to survive intact from antiquity, had stood since 1538 in the Piazza Campidoglio, the square on the capitol hill and seat of city government.

"Either we have to learn to look after our environment or science has to come up with a coating that can protect the statue. Until then, it should be kept in a museum," said Alessandra Melucco Vaccaro, who directed restoration work. She has suggested replacing the void in the square with a copy. Some city politicians are outraged.

"I challenge the affectations of a few cultural mandarins and their contempt for the people," said Gianfranco Redavid, the city councillor responsible for cultural affairs. "The feelings of the Roman people have to be respected. They must also be considered history and civilisation," he said. "Marcus Aurelius must go back to the piazza."

The Romans, it might be said, have not always shown the greatest respect for their surfeit

of monuments.

The Colosseum, became an enormous quarry in the 15th century, when huge blocks of its travertine stone were carted off to construct St. Peter's Basilica and other buildings.

Today it stands blackened by exhaust fumes on the edge of one of the city's busiest road junctions.

See-through plastic?

Other great monuments of imperial Rome, including the Arch of Constantine and the Columns of Trajan and Marcus Aurelius have undergone extensive restoration after acid rain turned much of their marble to plaster. They are back on show after years under protective green netting. And, around the Column of Marcus Aurelius outside the prime minister's office, the cars are back parked at its base.

Adriano La Regina, chief curator of Rome's ancient monuments, has said that unless the environment is cleaned up, many of the marble treasures may have to be covered with see-through plastic.

"There would be no need for protection if acid rain was eliminated. It does not only damage the monuments. It also damages Romans' lungs," he said.

He said others have urged better public transport, more parking spaces outside the centre and the introduction of lead-free petrol.

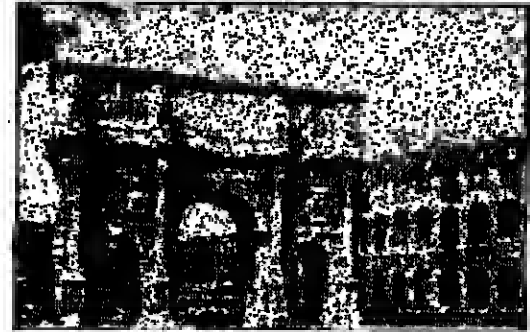
Various schemes introduced to limit the number of cars entering the historic centre have by and large failed because they are inadequately policed and because Romans ignore them.

Squabbles on the council have been a further block and have wrecked orderly introduction of an odd-even number plate system of access to the centre for cars during the pre-Christmas shopping rush.

Mayor Giubilo has argued that the problems are no worse than in any other major city. But Firpo, for one, is not convinced. "Nobody is as arrogant as the Romans. Nobody is as violent. They are vulgar... but above all they are corrupt," Firpo told the magazine Epoca.



The Colosseum, below: Arch of Constantine.



EQUESTRIAN STATUE: Marcus Aurelius. Experts are currently pleading with the city council not to put the gilded bronze statue of philosopher-emperor Marcus Aurelius back in the open after 8 years of analysis and restoration. They say pollution would destroy it. The 1,800-year-old monument is a symbol of Rome's pride.

Europeans work to uncover fate of ancient Gulf city

By Ragip Erten
Reuters

UMM AL QAIWAIN, United Arab Emirates — A band of European archaeologists is labouring through the desert winter to uncover the 2,000-year-old secrets of the abandoned city of Ad Door.

"This city is definitely the largest settlement of its time in the southern Gulf," Professor Ernie Haerick of Belgium's Ghent University said amid the excavations at Ad Door, 60 kilometres from the booming modern trade centre of Dubai.

The ancient city, also named in some old texts as Omana, was located on both the sea and land trade routes from Rome and Greece to India and Mesopotamia.

It flourished between 200 B.C. and 200 A.D., living off the trade between superpowers of the time — the Roman empire to the west, Parthia in what is now Iran and Iraq, and India and China to the east.

Archaeologists from the universities of Ghent, Copenhagen, Lyon and Edinburgh are now working together to try to solve the mystery of why it was deserted by its inhabitants, known as the "fish eaters" by their contemporaries.

"There is no trace of destruction," said Haerick, who has ruled out a foreign invasion.

Possible reasons for the exodus include a shift in the local balance of power, a change in trade routes, a scarcity of water or a combination of all three at a time when the Roman empire was in decline.

Found by an Iraqi team in 1974, Ad Door is being explored for the second consecutive year by groups from the four universities which take six-week turns in the winter when the heat lessens.

The ruler of the nearby Gulf emirate of Umm Al Qaiwain supports their efforts by supplying workers and materials.

Workers sift fine brown sand from graves and houses in the search for artefacts which might yield clues to the fate of Ad Door.

The city, stretching over four square kilometres, is sheltered by sand dunes and has a shallow natural harbour.

So far the teams have excavated a temple, complete with altars, a well, some houses and several graves, most of which were robbed in antiquity, as well as a fort built later by the Iraqis.

"We found some graves untouched (by robbers) which gave us valuable information," Haerick said. "Some contained Roman glassworks, coins, pottery and ivory articles."

A mint for coins found in one grave named the ruler of the city as "Abiel, the ruler of Hagar." But very little is known about why the residents of Ad Door left or where they went.

The Arabian peninsula is believed to have been inhabited for almost 4,000 years and the archaeologists estimate that people settled at the site of what later became Ad Door as long ago as 1,000 B.C.

Haerick described the research work as a unique European effort. "We share all information we find," he said, adding that finds were sent back

for analysis to whichever of the four universities had the most expertise in that field.

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OECD sees industrial world at most buoyant growth since early 70s

PARIS (R) — The leading non-communist industrial economies which looked on the brink of recession a year ago are now at their most buoyant since the early 1970s, the OECD said Tuesday.

A half-yearly report by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), a Paris-based economic affairs "think tank," said industrial output in its 24 member nations had grown at an annual rate of more than four per cent since mid-1987.

The brisk expansion had been widespread. Investment in industry had been growing especially fast.

"This unusually favourable conjuncture provides national authorities with the opportunity to push ahead with policies which would underpin and sustain the improvement in the economic climate," the OECD said.

Unemployment likely to remain high

But, it added, unemployment would generally remain high while another cloud was that global inflation was edging up, running at around four per cent. That should be dampened by some slowing of the expansion which the OECD predicts.

The OECD said uncertainty also persisted about further correction of the trading imbalances of the three largest economies, with the United States still running huge deficits and Japan and West Germany dramatically in surplus.

The OECD raised its growth projections for all major industrial economies from predictions

made in June.

It forecast they would expand by four per cent this year and 3.25 per cent in 1989. In early summer it had foreseen growth of only three per cent and 2.5 per cent.

For 1990, the agency's first estimates are that the global expansion will slow to 2.75 per cent. The outlook differs dramatically from a year ago when, just two months after the worst stock market crash since 1929, the OECD said that "prolonged or acute financial market turmoil could even carry the risk of a recession accompanied by higher interest rates."

The OECD now gives high marks to governments for cooperating to improve business confidence. A strong gain in industrial investment was "an indication that 'animal spirits' have been raised in most OECD countries."

But it added: "The dollar nevertheless remains vulnerable to pressures in exchange markets and a sharp cumulative decline... would threaten the improved economic situation."

The OECD said persistent global trading imbalances "could damage market confidence and stability — especially if, as is possible, the trend in monthly trade figures becomes less favourable."

On inflation, it said risks were particularly great in North America, Sweden and some other smaller European countries where

both labour and product markets remained tight.

In Britain and some other European nations the inflation risk was not so much that of a spectacular resurgence "but rather of a more insidious development."

The OECD spoke of "forces getting a grip on the system which will make for a slow but cumulative acceleration of prices similar to the 'creeping inflation' of the late 1960s."

If this trend persisted, interest rates could rise as governments acted to pinch off spending. They would probably peak in the first half of 1989 in most cases, then decline steadily — which would be a break for Third World debtors.

Protectionism stays a chronic problem

The OECD also said the present Uruguay Round of free trade talks under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) must not be allowed to fail.

"Protectionism remains a chronic problem," it said. "There are signs that a slow drift towards greater protectionism and further trade discrimination is still continuing."

Latest GATT talks ended in Montreal two weeks ago with the U.S. and European Community at odds over farm subsidies.

The OECD said more jobs would be created over the next two years in the industrial world but, in general, bigger workforces would mean that the number without work would edge back above 29 million in 1990 from around 28.5 million this year.

But this would still be below a record 32 million in 1983.

The OECD sees non-oil commodity prices rising by 1.5 to two per cent in each of the next two years after climbing three per cent in the second half of 1988.

Oil prices were likely to remain around \$12 a barrel with an increase in demand and greater producer discipline offset by substantial excess production capacity.

OAU urges Africans to pay up dues

ADDIS ABABA (R) — The Organisation of African Unity has appealed to its members, who have paid only 10 per cent of their contributions to its 1987-88 budget, to pay the outstanding \$22.6 million quickly, OAU sources said Tuesday. They said OAU Secretary-General Ide Oummaron made the appeal during a closed session of the organisation's budget advisory committee. Only nine of the OAU's 50 member states — Botswana, Ethiopia, Gabon, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Swaziland, Togo and Zimbabwe — had paid contributions totalling \$2.4 million by the end of November, they added. The sources said Oummaron had acknowledged that Africa was burdened with a \$220 billion foreign debt, but he urged OAU members to make sacrifices "to ensure the continuity of the pan-African organisation as a viable and respected continental body." The sources said African governments owe the OAU a total of \$53.5 million in unpaid contributions.

Iranian students oppose foreign loans

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — The Islamic Students Association at Tehran University and the Medical Sciences University have called for the country to avoid foreign loans to finance reconstruction, the official Islamic Republic News Agency has said. The agency quoted a statement from the association that called international banks and creditor nations "essentially colonialist, profit-motivated and dominance-seeking." Iran has avoided foreign borrowing since the 1979 Islamic revolution, choosing to draw down its massive foreign reserves to finance its eight-year war effort. But oil revenue is depleted. A public debate has emerged since the Aug. 20 ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war on how to raise the hundreds of billions needed to finance reconstruction. The students called for Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini to rule on the issue, otherwise it might have "unpleasant consequences," the agency said.

Eddy Shah sells second newspaper

LONDON (AP) — Publisher Eddy Shah, who led the way into Tehran newspaper production in Britain three years ago, is giving up his five-week-old national tabloid, The Post, and has sold his 20-paper provincial chain, Press Association has said. Shah, 44, has decided to leave the newspaper business, the Sunday Times reported. "I don't enjoy newspapers," he quoted him as saying. "I was over interested in the content of my papers or understood what makes a good newspaper." The Post was launched Nov. 10 with three editions and an initial print run of 1.1 million copies. It was thought the paper needed to sell 370,000 copies a day to break even but recently was reportedly selling about 100,000 copies a day. The Post was Shah's second attempt in four years to start a national newspaper.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Persian carpets lose their magic

NICOSIA (R) — Dozens of carpet weavers and dealers in southern Iran are facing bankruptcy because their carpets are anything but magic. The Iranian news agency IRNA has said that thousands of Persian carpets were gathering dust unsold in the city of Kerman because they had been improperly woven. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said customs officials had stopped dealers exporting 10,000 substandard carpets, causing many to forfeit their contracts.

Kuwait welcomes decision on B.P.

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait has welcomed Britain's decision to give it more time to reduce its 21.6 per cent stake in British Petroleum (B.P.), the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported. The agency quoted state minister for cabinet affairs Rashid Abdul Aziz Al Rashid as saying after a cabinet meeting that Kuwait appreciated the British announcement. The British government said Friday that Kuwait could have three years instead of one to cut its shareholding in B.P. to 9.9 per cent. Kuwait had sought a five-year time period. "This positive attitude confirms the strength of the historical relations linking Kuwait and Britain," Rashid said.

China makes first loan to Soviet Union

BEIJING (AP) — The state-run Bank of China has joined in a syndicated \$50 million loan to a Soviet bank, marking the first time China has provided such credit to the Soviet Union, the official China Daily newspaper said Tuesday. The newspaper said the nation's special foreign exchange bank is participating in a loan repayable over seven years to the Soviet bank Vnesheconombank. Other participants include Postbank and Skopbank of Finland, Algemene Bank of the Netherlands and Denmark's Copenhagen Bank and Provisshanken. The report did not say how much the Bank of China was contributing to the loan package.

EC lends \$133.5 million for Airbus

LUXEMBOURG (AP) — The European Investment Bank (EIB) said Monday it would lend 800 million French francs (\$133.5 million) to the French aeronautics company Aerospatiale for assembling Airbus A330-340 jumbo jets, the largest models in the Airbus range. The loan was for 20 years. The interest rate was not specified by the EC's long-term investment agency. EIB said the money would be used for constructing building and installing industrial equipment. The bank said the loan was part of its ongoing support for the Airbus programme, involving close industrial cooperation by EC companies using high technology. Airbus Industrie's new A330-340 programme centres on the production of large-capacity long- and medium-range aircraft. The programme will cost a total of almost 1.1 billion francs (\$300 million).

KKR seeks funds for world's biggest buyout

TOKYO (R) — The world's biggest bank is being asked to help finance the world's highest takeover.

Kohlberg Kravis Roberts and Company (KKR) has asked Japanese banks for some \$5 billion to help finance its \$25 billion leveraged buyout of RJR Nabisco, banking sources said.

At least 11 Japanese banks have been asked to put up \$500

million each to help complete the buyout of the giant American food and tobacco conglomerate.

KKR takeover mastermind Henry Kravis arrived in Tokyo Sunday and is expected to discuss the details of the deal at a meeting with the banks Wednesday, the sources said.

The U.S. investment bank is planning to hold another meeting in New York to ask 38 international banks, including Japanese

institutions, to help it complete the takeover, they said. Half the needed funds are expected to come from bank loans.

KKR wanted to meet senior bank officials in Tokyo because they are expected to play such a major part in the deal, the sources said.

Most Japanese banks remain noncommittal because of the sheer size of the deal.

"Five hundred million dollars

is pretty big money, and we just can't make such loans unless we get good terms on them," said one bank manager. He said he had no idea what interest rates KKR will offer on the loans it is seeking.

Japanese banks are also concerned that the U.S. Congress is moving to tighten rules on leveraged buyouts and this may adversely affect KKR's RJR Nabisco deal, the sources said.

Government rushes aid to U.K. egg industry

LONDON (R) — The government announced an emergency aid package worth £19 million (\$34 million) Monday to help Britain's troubled egg industry.

Agriculture Minister John MacGregor told parliament the package would compensate producers over a four-week period for the destruction of millions of unsold eggs and the slaughter of up to four million chickens, a tenth of the laying flock.

The move came after egg sales dropped by half in December, normally the industry's busiest month, following remarks by former junior health minister Edwina Currie on Dec. 3.

She said that most British egg production was contaminated by salmonella bacteria, which causes food poisoning.

Currie resigned Friday after uproar from the egg industry, which contends that the risk of catching salmonella from contaminated eggs is virtually nonexistent, when it became clear that her comments had been very costly.

On the same day the government indicated that an aid package was on the way and launched a £500,000 (\$900,000) advertising campaign, to persuade people that properly cooked eggs posed no danger to health.

The egg industry has also served several legal writs on Currie. Any damages awarded would be met by the government.

Further setback

The drive to restore confidence in one of Britain's favourite breakfast foods faced a further setback Monday after widespread publicity was given to claims that one person died every week from eating contaminated eggs.

Professor Richard Lacey of Leeds University, a microbiologist and member of the Department of Health's Veterinary Products Committee, said confidential reports showed that about 3,000 people caught food poisoning from salmonella-infected eggs every week. This is a much higher figure than official estimates.

"One person a week is dying from salmonella in eggs and that is a conservative estimate," he said.

U.S. economic growth slows to 2.5 per cent

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy, held back by the summer drought, expanded at a moderate annual rate of 2.5 per cent last summer, the slowest pace in nearly two years, the government said Tuesday.

The Commerce Department said the gross national product (GNP), the broadest measure of economic health, slowed in the third quarter after growing at a robust 3.4 per cent pace in the first quarter and 3.0 per cent in the second.

That would be good news for analysts worried that the economy is overheating and becoming inflationary, except that the underlying strength is being masked by the temporary effects of the drought, which seared pastures and shriveled crops. That knocked \$12.3 billion off the GNP, which was at an inflation and seasonally adjusted annual level of \$4.01 trillion in the July-

September period.

Excluding the drought, the GNP grew 3.9 per cent in the second quarter and 3.0 per cent in the third.

The GNP figure for the third quarter was a slight downward revision from a preliminary estimate of 2.6 per cent issued a month ago. Most economists had been looking for a slight upward adjustment. It was the slowest pace of expansion since the fourth quarter of 1986.

Most of the downward revision was accounted for by a larger-than-expected decline in government spending.

The department also increased its estimate of inflation. A price index tied to GNP and adjusted to exclude the effects of changes in buying patterns increased at an annual rate of 5.3 per cent in the third quarter, up from 5.0 per cent in the second and the fastest pace in six years.

Bush wants security people to review major problems of Third World debt

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect George Bush said Monday that U.S. national security people should participate in a review of Third World debt because "enormous problems" in the western hemisphere.

The World Bank estimates Third World debt at \$1.32 trillion, \$442 billion of it in Latin America and the Caribbean. Bush told reporters there is concern that private banks have

not been lending as much as they might.

"And so I do think that should be subject to a major review which will include not just the treasury but our national security people because we've got enormous problems, particularly in our own hemisphere, on Third World debt," he told reporters.

He did not name any country. Some of the major debtor countries have long histories of military coups, including Brazil — the biggest Third World debtor, owing more than \$120 billion.

Security aspects of the debt situation were discussed in recent talks between Bush and the newly elected presidents of Mexico, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, and of Venezuela, Carlos Andres Perez.

He also discussed security issues with President Raul Alfonsin of Argentina, who faces an election in May and is barred from running for reelection.

Bush warned danger in forgiveness of debt. European creditor governments have forgiven some debt, especially in the poorest countries of Africa. Debts owed to the U.S. government could only be forgiven if Congress voted to do it, which is considered unlikely.

Some forgiveness of debt by private banks also has been proposed.

"I think you have to be very careful of forgiveness of debt if you want future loans," he said.

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Tuesday Dec. 20, 1988 Central Bank official rates			
Buy	Sell		
U.S. dollar	473.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	379.7
Swiss franc	861.0	Dutch guilder	237.2
Deutsche mark	267.3	Swedish crown	77.3
French franc	317.4	Italian lira (for 100)	36.4
	78.4	Belgian franc (for 100)	127.8

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.8040/50	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.2000/10	Canadian dollar	
	1.7780/90	Deutsche mark	
	2.0043/53	Dutch guilders	
	1.5025/35	Swiss francs	
	37.18/23	Belgian francs	
	6.0750/800	French francs	
	1306/1307	Italian lire	
	125.10/20	Japanese yen	
	6.1560/610	Swedish crowns	
	6.5830/80	Norwegian crowns	
	6.8700/50	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	412.10/412.60	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Another rise on Wall Street sent prices surging for the second day running. The All Ordinaries Index surged 10.4 points to 1,461.9.

TOKYO — Shares were higher with investors picking up bargains after three days of losses, but levels ended off their peaks in thin volume. The Nikkei Index rose 97.86 points, or 0.33 per cent, to 29,567.94.

HONG KONG — The Hong Kong stock market slumped in the afternoon session, erasing morning gains and closing lower on profit-taking. The Hang Seng index eased 3.87 points to 2,607.97. Blue chips topped the active list.

SINGAPORE — Bargain buying and short-covering pushed share prices higher over a broad front before late profit-taking topped them from the day's highs. The Straits Times Industrial Index closed 6.90 points higher at 1,014.75.

BOMBAY — Heavy buying by state-owned financial institutions helped shares recover after a week-long slide. Tata Steel shares rose 15 rupees to 1,045.

FRANKFURT — The dollar's steep climb, coupled with strong commercial demand for window-dressing needs, boosted West German shares in active trading. The 30-share Dax Index closed at 1,333.04, 17.06 points or 1.3 per cent above the previous close.

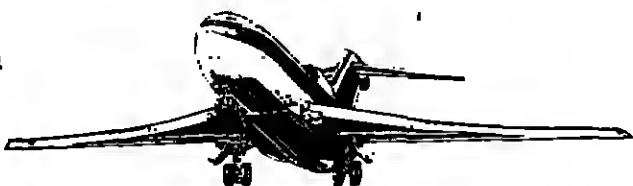
ZURICH — Swiss share prices finished slightly higher in moderately active trading underpinned by the overnight gain on Wall Street and a stronger dollar. The All-Share Swiss Index rose 4.8 points to 920.2.

PARIS — French share prices ended higher in thin business, boosted by a string of favourable news for some major groups and Wall Street's positive opening. The 30-share bourse indicator posted a late 1.24 per cent gain.

LONDON — Shares were steady below the day's highs in late afternoon business. By 1554 GMT, the FTSE 100 share index was up 9.1 points to 1,779.6.

NEW YORK — Analysts said blue chips could set a new post-crash closing high Tuesday through they pulled back from earlier levels above the recovery highs. The Dow was up seven at 2181 after rising to 2187.

Yemenia to Sana'a



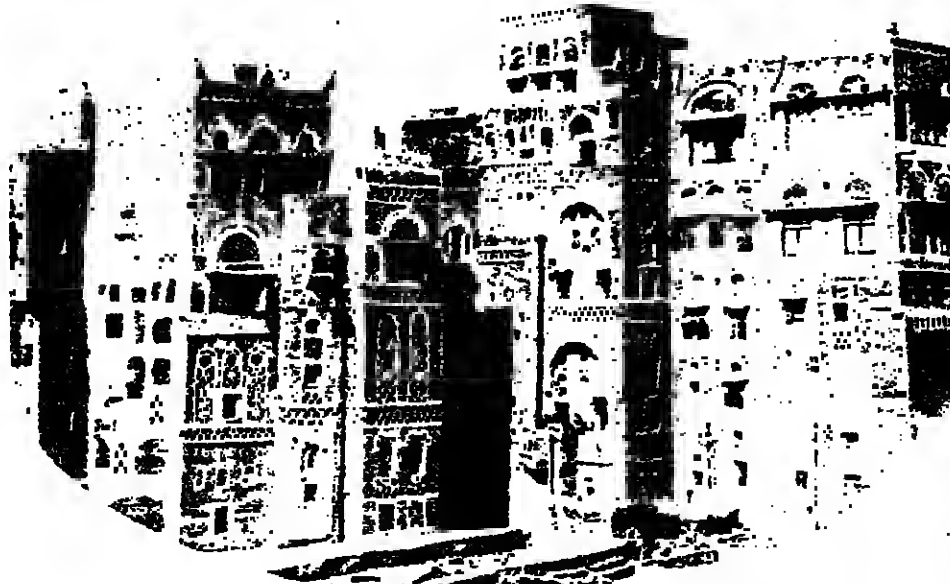
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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Canada defeats Finland 7-1

MOSCOW (AP) — A four-goal performance by forward Steve Graves helped lift Canada to a 7-1 victory over Finland Monday and back into medal contention at the Izvestia Ice Hockey tournament. Also scoring for Canada were Mark Morrison, Mark Jorris and Doug Wickenheiser. Mikko Haapakoski had the lone goal for Finland.

Sweden defeats Czechoslovakia 2-0

MOSCOW (AP) — Tom Eklund of Sweden gave his team the only offense it needed Sunday as the Swedes beat Czechoslovakia 2-0 in an international ice hockey tournament sponsored by the newspaper Izvestia. Eklund scored in the first period to give the Swedes the lead, and again in the second period.

'Maguila' demolishes American

BELO HORIZONTE (R) — Brazil's South American heavyweight boxing champion Adilson "Maguila" Rodrigues knocked out American Floyd Scaff in the second round Monday as he continued his campaign for a shot at world champion Mike Tyson. The victory for the hard-hitting Rodrigues, ranked number two by the World Boxing Council (WBC), raised his record to 33-2. Twenty-seven of his wins have come within the distance.

Indoor mile king quits through injury

NEW YORK (R) — Ireland's Eamonn Coghlan, the indoor mile world record holder, announced his retirement from track competition due to injuries he suffered in a car accident earlier this month. "I will not be running competitive track and field any longer," said Coghlan in a statement issued Monday. Coghlan, however, did not rule out a switch to road racing. Coghlan, 36, said he had suffered neck, back, arm and leg injuries in the Dec. 4 accident that occurred while he was driving to the airport to pick up his wife, Yvonne, who was returning from a visit to Ireland.

Electric-prod jockey faces life ban

CHICAGO (AP) — U.S. racing authorities say they have suspended jockey Geary Louviere from U.S. horse racing for the rest of his life after determining he used an electric prod to win a race last week. The suspension, which applies to riding and all other aspects of the sport, was issued during a stewards' inquiry, a preliminary step in the Illinois racing board's disciplinary process, said Joseph Simopol, deputy director of the board. Louviere's attorney, Arthur Engelland, said the ruling will be appealed to the full racing board. Louviere also faces a criminal charge of possessing an electric device at a race track. He is free on \$5,000 bond on that charge.

NHL STANDINGS

NEW YORK (R) — National Hockey League (NHL) standings after games played Sunday (tabulate under won, lost, tied, points, goals for, goals against):

Wales Conference

Patrick Division

	W	L	T	Pts.	GF	GA
Pittsburgh Penguins	19	11	2	40	152	135
New York Rangers	16	13	4	36	130	125
Philadelphia Flyers	17	17	2	36	142	124
Washington Capitals	16	13	4	36	115	113
New Jersey Devils	13	15	5	31	114	131
New York Islanders	8	22	2	18	96	137

Adams Division

	W	L	T	Pts.	GF	GA
Montreal Canadiens	20	10	6	46	141	113
Boston Bruins	13	14	9	35	113	108
Quebec Nordiques	13	20	3	29	127	159
Hartford Whalers	13	16	2	28	112	109
Buffalo Sabres	12	17	3	27	109	134

Campbell Conference

Norris Division

	W	L	T	Pts.	GF	GA
Detroit Red Wings	17	11	4	38	133	123
St. Louis Blues	13	13	5	31	103	102
Minnesota North Stars	10	16	6	26	99	118
Toronto Maple Leafs	11	20	2	24	104	146
Chicago Black Hawks	8	21	4	20	128	161

Smythe Division

	W	L	T	Pts.	GF	GA
Calgary Flames	23	5	5	51	143	86
Los Angeles Kings	21	12	1	43	178	137
Edmonton Oilers	19	12	3	41	161	134
Winnipeg Jets	13	12	5	31	126	130
Vancouver Canucks	12	17	5	29	112	114

Enemies meet in the ring

NEW YORK (R) — A battle that would have been eagerly anticipated a few years ago will finally take place next year when Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini faces Hector "Macho" Camacho in a battle of former lightweight champions.

Former world boxing association champion Mancini and Camacho, who held the world boxing Council's version of the title, announced at a news conference Monday the March 6 bout that will take place in Reno, Nevada.

In recent years the two, once considered by many to be the most exciting young fighters in the sport, have become better known for their exploits out of the ring.

Since losing his title to Livingstone Bramble in 1985, the 27-year-old Mancini, who has a record of 29-3 with 27 opponents stopped inside the distance, has been struggling to make a career as an actor.

Mancini, who expects to split about four million dollars with fellow American Camacho, said their mutual dislike, rather than the money, had brought him back to the ring.

"I retired because I lost the passion," said Mancini.

"This is the only fight I wanted. He's like a mosquito. A pest. After a while you want to smack it and get rid of it," Mancini said of the 25-year-old Camacho.

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted by The Carroll Richter Astrological Foundation —

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A challenge can be accepted. Energy is at a high point. New enterprises can be tackled as we move into a positive cycle with initiative and free will leading the way. Take one step at a time, and you'll succeed.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Avoid conflict with authority figures. You tend to overindulge. Keep matters toned down until the late evening and your own time.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You feel restless about your current status. A change of direction would be welcomed. Spend your time working on educational pursuits.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You impress important individuals with your efficiency and speed. Keep up the pace awhile longer to demonstrate your persistence.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Giving up a relationship may be a disappointment later. Your insecurity plays a part. Make progress by focusing on the good.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) A lot of progress can be made today if you remain humble and listen. Don't act before you get all the facts. Use a most diplomatic approach.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Admit that you are in need of love.

Make plans to pursue romance. All work and no play will strip you of your emotional insulation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Nervous energy has you on a treadmill of activity most of the day.

Stabilize relationships that work in your favor. Watch your weight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) This is a good time to bring things which need to be aired out in the open. Discussions about emotional matters work in your favor.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Sudden mood changes have emotions on a swing a lot today. Stay calm, and allow this short, confusing cycle to complete.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) A surprise invitation has you in a good mood. A sense of commitment leads to a positive goal. An accomplishment is realized.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) You can hardly wait to try something new, unusual and exciting. You are sensitive and responsive to making plans.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to Mar. 20) Take time to let those important to you know how much you care. Your busy schedule can be arranged to accommodate emotional needs.

Uncrowned motor king sells throne

LONDON (R) — He may not look the most imposing figure to the paddock, but British businessman Bernie Ecclestone is virtually unrivalled as the central and most powerful man in the high-speed, high-finance world of grand prix motor racing.

In his regular uniform of black trousers, white shirt and dark glasses, the diminutive head of the Formula One Constructors' Association (FOCA) and vice-president of the International Automobile Federation (FIA) is instantly recognizable as he goes about his business.

Even in more formal surroundings at such an event as the FIA's annual gala dinner and prize-giving ceremony in Paris, he retains an aura of dapper activity, stealing brief meetings and telephone conversations between intruders, speeches and courses.

Ecclestone is widely respected, admired by many and feared, it is said, by a few.

Everyone in the motor racing world refers to him as "Bernie" as if he is an old friend, yet he is often described, usually in hushed tones, as a dictator. He is the most influential man in motor sport.

Ecclestone, however, has recently sold the foundation of his power and influence — the Brabham Formula One motor racing team which he had owned since 1970 — and now relies, for his position, upon the support of the other team owners and those in power to the hierarchy of international motor racing.

When the sale of Brabham — to Swiss slot machine magnate Walter Brun — was announced, critics instantly predicted that it would mean the end of "Bernie" and his reign as the uncrowned king of motor sport.

They said he would lose his hold within Formula One by selling out. Or, they suggested, he would intend to pull out altogether and leave for another commercial or sporting world. Ecclestone sweeps such talk aside.

"I have no links or connections left with Brabham," he said.

"The others — that is to say the other team-owners and team-chiefs — are perfectly happy for me to remain as their representative and run FOCA. I am sure there will be no problems arising there at all."

Born in Suffolk, England, in 1936, Ecclestone has encountered few setbacks in his successful career as an entrepreneur since studying engineering at a London Polytechnic. He graduated into motor racing by riding motor cycles as a 15-year-old and then following his interest by moving into Formula Three and then Formula One as a team manager-owner.

He bought the Connaught Formula One team in 1958 and later partnered Jochen Rindt in running a Formula Two Lotus team before taking over Brabham in 1970.

Vikings edge Bears 28-27

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Walker Lee Ashley intercepted Mike Tomczak's foolhardy pass near the goal line with 2:37 to play and rumbled 94 yards for a touchdown, as Minnesota held off Chicago 28-27 to give the Vikings the home-field advantage in the NFC wild-card game.

The Bears, trailing 21-20, drove to Minnesota's 8-yard line, seemingly perfect position for Kevin Butler to kick a game-winning field goal. But on third-and-2, Tomczak dropped back to pass, was rushed by Stafford Mays and threw the ball right into Ashley's arms.

After making the first interception of his five-year career, Ashley sprinted to the left side line and went untouched for the longest interception return in Vikings history and a 28-20 lead. Tomczak came back with a 1-yard touchdown pass to Dennis Gentry with 1:15 remaining, but the Bears' on-side kick was smothered by Minnesota.

Minnesota, 11-5, will host the Los Angeles Rams next Monday afternoon in the first NFL playoff game at the Metrodome since 1982.

Although the Bears, 12-4, lost twice to Minnesota, they won their fifth straight NFC Central title. Despite the game's lack of importance, Bears coach Mike Ditka spent much of Monday night prowling the sidelines, growling and scowling as Minnesota built a 21-0 lead.

The Bears responded with 20 unanswered points, including Tomczak's 76-yard touchdown pass to Dennis McKinnon and Neal Anderson's 51-yard scoring run, to pull within a point in the third period.

Wade Wilson had a hot start for the Vikings, connecting on touchdown passes of three yards to Steve Jordan and 18 yards to Alfred Anderson.

But the Pro Bowl quarterback began struggling in the second quarter and was replaced by former starter Tommy Kramer with 1:02 left in the third. Wilson finished with 15 completions in 28 attempts for 164 yards.

Kramer, however, was even worse, hitting just one of seven for 13 yards.

Leo Lewis' 64-yard return of Bryan Wagner's short punt set up Wilson's 3-yard flip to Jordan.

The Bears responded with a long drive, but Matt Subey fumbled at Minnesota's 9-yard line.

Wilson then marched the Vikings 88 yards in an 11-play drive capped by Anderson's 1-yard scoring run for a 14-0 lead. Wilson completed four passes for 46 yards and also ran 15 yards on an option keeper. Maurice Douglas' 18-yard pass interference penalty on second-and-15 greatly helped the drive.

Another Chicago miscue put the Vikings in position for their third touchdown. Neal Anderson fumbled when hit by John Harris and, on the next play, Wilson hit a wide-open Alfred Anderson for the score.

Neal Anderson became the first Chicago runner other than Walter Payton to have a 1,000-yard season since Gale Sayers in 1969. Payton, the NFL's career rushing leader, reached 1,000 yards 10 times.

Anderson gained 122 yards Monday, giving him 1,106 for the year. It was the first time in 38 games dating to Oct. 26, 1986, that a runner had gained 100 yards against Minnesota.

Butler kicked field goals of 20 and 45 yards, giving him 10 straight successful tries.

The Vikings' 28 points gave them a season total of 406, surpassing their 1986 record of 398.



Running hard: the Chicago Bears, despite taking the division title, never quite broke through the Vikings' defenses.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

RICHARD L. FREY (1985-1988)

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ 8 7 6 4	♠ 10 3	♠ 10 3	♠ J 8 5
♥ Q 10 9	♥ K 5 3	♥ J 8 5	♥ J 10 8 6
♦ K 5 3	♦ A K 3	♦ J 10 8 6	♦ J 10 8 6
♣ A K 3	♣ A K 3	♣ A K 3	♣ A K 3

♠ 10 8 6
 SOUTH
 ♠ A K Q 9
 ♥ 7 6 2
 ♦ A Q 4
 ♣ Q J 5

The bidding: North East South West
1 NT Pass 1 NT Pass
2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
4 NT Pass 4 NT Pass

Opening lead: 7
Few people have had greater impact on the game of bridge as a player, writer and editor than the chairman of the Goren Editorial Board, Richard L. Frey, who died Oct. 24 after a long illness. His achievements are too many to catalogue in a bridge column. Suffice it to say that it was his ability as editor that guided many Goren bridge projects from ideas to fulfillment; that it was his training which was responsible for honing the talents of at least four major bridge writers; and

that his playing skill was recognized by the American Contract Bridge League when they instituted the master point plan and conferred upon him one of the ten honorary Life Master titles they awarded. We will miss him sadly and long.

There are many remarkable hands testifying to his prowess as a player. One of our favorites is this quick hand from a rubber bridge game, in which he held the West cards. We like North's decision to jump to two no trump on his balanced hand even though he had four-card support for his partner's suit. His decision to correct to four spades is less felicitous.

Frey realized that the chances of finding his partner with two tricks were remote. However, he had listened to the bidding, and that brought forth an idea. The queen of hearts was quite probably going to be in the North hand, so he found the devilish opening lead of a low heart.

Not surprisingly, declarer played dummy's nine, and an astonished East found his jack held the trick. A heart return allowed West to cash the ace-king. West continued with the 13th heart. East ruffed with the ten and, when declarer overruled, West's jack was promoted to the setting trick!

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

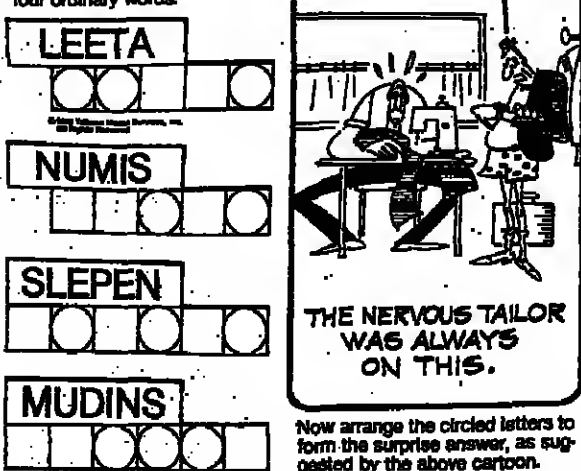


"It happens every time I use my indoor ski machine!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

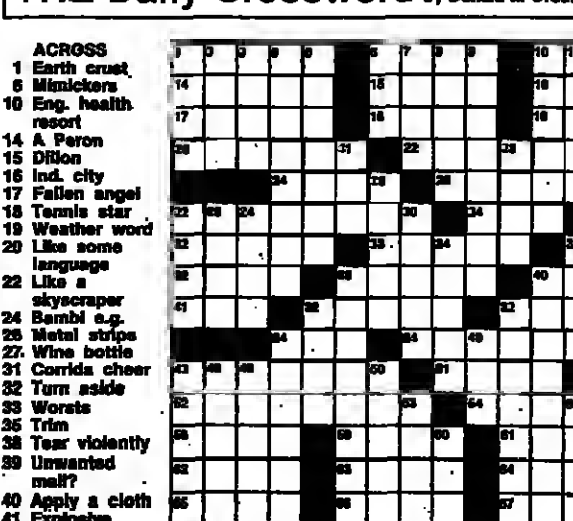


THE NERVOUS TAILOR WAS ALWAYS ON THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: WOMEN PANSY CORNEA BICKER
Yesterday's Jumble: WOMEN PANSY CORNEA BICKER
Answer: Where the deposits are "frozen assets" in a "SNOW BANK"

THE Daily Crossword by Donald R. Orest



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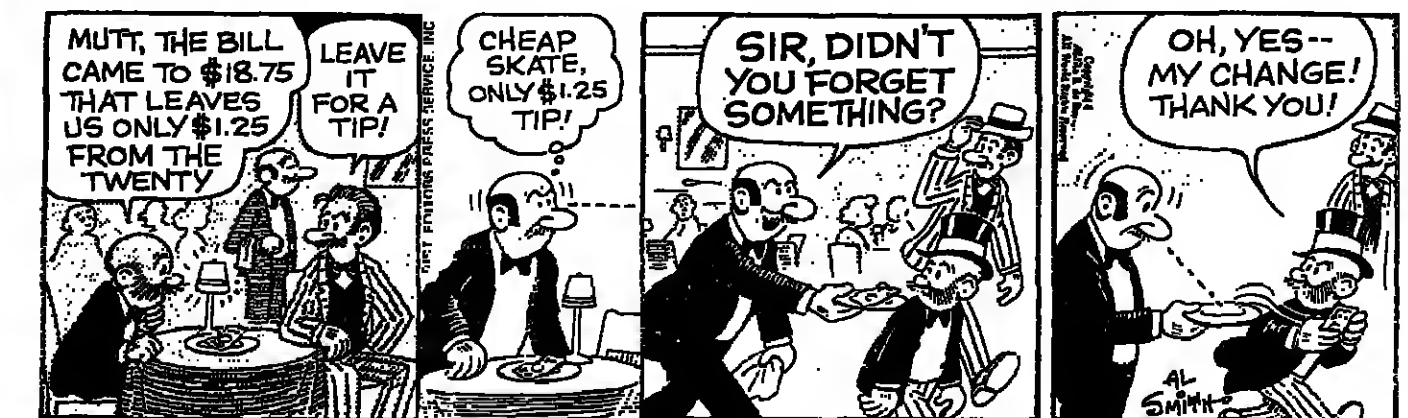
Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. Earth crust
2. Minors
3. Eng. health resort
4. A person
5. Dilemma
6. Ind. city
7. Fallen angel
8. Tennis star
9. Weather word
10. Like some language
11. Like a skyscraper
12. Metal strip
13. Wine bottle
14. Cornish cheer
15. Turn aside
16. Worst
17. Trim
18. Tear violently
19. Unwanted mail
20. Apply a cloth
21. Expensive
22. Succor
23. Kitchen gadget
24. Deceit
25. Vacation spots
26. Spring or stand
27. Group beliefs
28. Dancer
29. Vile
30. "Peter Pan" author
31. Further
32. Thrufield
33. Suspends
34. Even now
35. Piping joints
36. Bridge action
37. Pub missile
38. Low
39. Coin
40. Confidante
41. Signature
42. Cut drastically
43. Clue
44. Dog
45. Ready for business
46. Pippin
47. Tower over
48. Igneous
49. Chagall
50. Do not listen
51. Watch over
52. Priest's robe
53. Employee's
54. Gist
55. Marine
56. Sledge
57. Swallow
58. Party's place

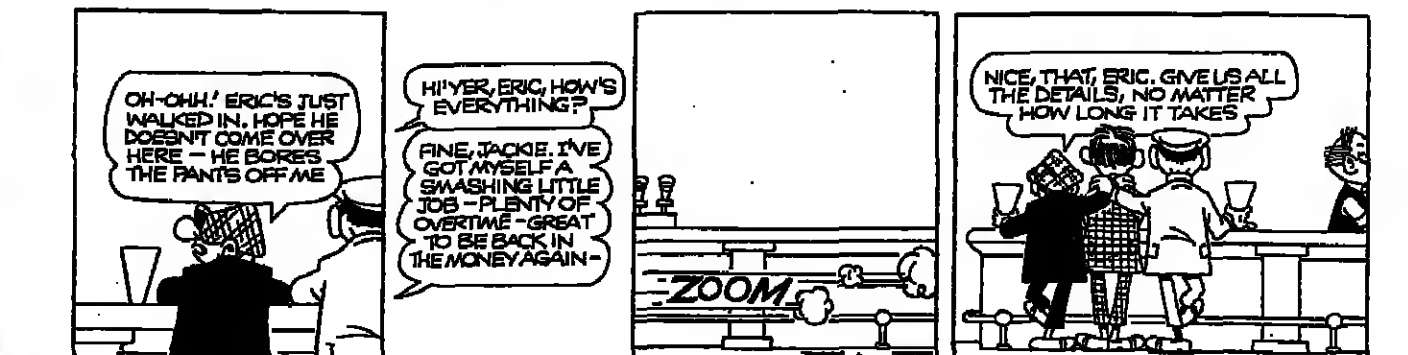
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Armenians brace for wintry blast

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviets braced for snow and low temperatures forecast for Tuesday in the earthquake-battered republic of Armenia, where thousands of people left homeless by the disaster now live in tents and makeshift shelters.

Rescuers Monday battled worsening weather and the threat of epidemic as they evacuated 4,500 women and children from cities and villages devastated by the quake.

The Dec. 7 quake levelled the cities of Leninakan, Kirovakan and Spitak, as well as up to 100 Armenian villages, reducing the homes of more than 500,000 people to rubble. Soviet officials said

that work to rebuild the cities will begin within two weeks.

Prime Minister Nikolai I. Ryzhkov, who heads the Politburo Commission, told reporters in Yerevan, the Armenian capital, that Leninakan and Kirovakan will be rebuilt on the same sites, while Spitak will be shifted to a spot where there is less danger of another earthquake. The buildings will not exceed three to four storeys, he said.

Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Batalin said that housing construction is expected to start in the first three months of 1989, and homes built from light materials will begin to go up next month.

Batalin said the government plans a "significant increase in the seismic resistance of the buildings," the official news agency TASS reported.

Some plans for the resurrected cities will be presented to the Armenian people Thursday over television in the press.

Radio Moscow said Monday that had weather hastened the evacuation of people in the earthquake-hit regions.

Thousands have been living in tents or in the open air, and the onset of winter in the Caucasus mountains of the southern Soviet Union has dealt survivors and rescue workers alike one more hardship.

Ryzhkov, commenting Monday on the evacuation and planned reconstruction, said: "The first and most dramatic stage in liquidating the consequences of the earthquake in Armenia, whose principle objective is to save human lives, is being completed."

"Today we have come close to the second stage, which is of a more long-term nature. Its goal is to restore the social and economic potential," Ryzhkov said of the reconstruction plans. "It was originally assumed that this stage would require around five billion rubles (\$8.3 billion), but judging by the situation, the sum will be greater."



A civil defence worker passes by the burnt-out shell of a bus set ablaze near Colombo by extremists in the run-up to Monday's presidential elections in Sri Lanka.

Premadasa declared president

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa was officially declared the winner of Sri Lanka's presidential election Tuesday.

Elections Commissioner Chandrananda de Silva, confirming an earlier victory claim by Premadasa's spokesman, said the prime minister had taken 50.3 per cent of the votes cast for a slim overall majority over the two other candidates.

Immediately after the announcement of his victory, Premadasa made a televised nationwide appeal to extremists to end ethnic violence that has wracked the Indian Ocean island-nation of 16 million.

"The politics of terror has no place in the temple of democracy," he said. "I will eradicate fear and suppression. I will restore law and order."

Premadasa and third contestant Oswin Abeygunasekera were in Colombo town hall to hear the result announced but main opposition challenger Sirimavo Bandaranaike, who predicted civil unrest if she were "cheated of victory," was absent.

"He has got a clear mandate and a majority over Mrs. Bandaranaike," said Premadasa's spokesman several hours before de Silva broadcast the result. There was no explanation for the delay.

Anticipating the announcement, several hundred supporters of the 64-year-old prime minister noisily celebrated in front of his home.

No incidents were reported but a curfew was to come into force after the results were broadcast to prevent the violence which has

followed previous elections on the island.

Premadasa, prime minister under executive President Junius Jayewardene for the past decade, had a majority of nearly 300,000 votes over Bandaranaike among the 5.1 million people who cast their ballots.

He faces a daunting task as head of state of an island driven by political and ethnic violence and an economy battered by the years of strife.

The turnout of around 55 per cent was low by the standards of Sri Lanka's lively democracy, reflecting the fear and uncertainty prevailing after five years of rebellion by minority Tamils and a backlash by leftwingers of the majority Sinhalese who have killed more than 600 people in the past year.

120 storm Kwangju hearing

SEOUL (AP) — Some 120 people stormed the National Assembly building Tuesday during a hearing on a 1980 uprising in Kwangju, clashing with guards and demanding officials be punished for suppressing the revolt.

The protesters, identifying themselves as family members of people who died or disappeared in the bloody uprising in the southern city, moved up and down an assembly corridor, shouting, "Reveal the truth of Kwangju."

Two porcelain decorations in the corridor were broken before opposition lawmakers persuaded the protesters to enter another room, where they staged a four-hour sit-down.

After the sit-down, the protesters drove in three buses to the presidential mansion Blue House, but were stopped 700 metres from the building. They refused to leave, and after two hours police took them to nearby police stations.

Chun Kye-Ryang, a spokesman for the group, told police the demonstrators were dissatisfied with what he called a lacklustre effort in the assembly's hearing to bring out facts concerning the Kwangju incident.

By official count, some 200 people were killed and more than 800 others were injured in Kwangju when authorities used the military to quell the uprising, the worst in modern South Korean history.

The opposition charges that the Kwangju incident was set up as part of a plot by army generals to seize power in the chaotic days that followed the assassination of President Park Chung-Hee in late 1979.



Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi gets a taste of China in Peking Monday

Gandhi vows no interference in Peking affairs

India, China discuss Tibet

PEKING (AP) — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and China's President Yang Shangkun discussed China's troubled region of Tibet Tuesday, and Gandhi said his country will not interfere in Peking's internal affairs.

The official Xinhua news agency said Yang explained China's position on Tibet during a one-hour meeting at the Great Hall of the People.

Otherwise, the Indian leader spent much of his second day in China sightseeing, braving blustery winter weather to visit the Temple of Heaven and the Great Wall.

The Tibetan issue has been a source of tension between China and India. India has provided refuge to the Tibetan religious leader, the Dalai Lama, and his followers. Many of these demand independence for Tibet and restoration of the Dalai Lama as the temporal ruler of the remote mountain area.

Yang, 81, who has held the largely ceremonial post of president since April, stressed that the Peking government provides assistance to the Tibetan region, one of China's most backward areas, and is helping Tibetans take charge of their own affairs.

"We respect the religious beliefs and customs and habits of the Tibetan people, and they enjoy the freedom of religious belief," Yang said, according to the news agency.

Xinhua said Gandhi repeated India's position that Tibet is an autonomous region of China, and that India will not interfere in China's internal affairs.

The Dalai Lama fled to India in 1959 after a failed uprising against Chinese military forces. New Delhi has given him refuge on condition he not be politically active in India.

At least one Tibetan monk was shot and killed by Chinese secur-

ity forces during a demonstration in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa Dec. 10. It was the third outbreak of anti-Chinese violence in Lhasa in the past 14 months.

Disputes over large sections of the mountainous frontier that divides the two countries have continued to plague relations, and the border question was the main topic during almost five hours of talks Monday between Gandhi and China's Premier Li Peng.

The two made no breakthroughs on the dispute. China claims 90,000 square kilometres of what India says is part of its northeast state of Arunachal Pradesh. India, meanwhile, claims 36,000 square kilometres of land in the west seized by China in 1962.

Gandhi and Li, however, vowed to continue the search for a peaceful solution while not letting the border problem interfere with efforts to improve ties.



NASA explores ways to explore Mars

WASHINGTON (R) — Man could set foot on Mars by 2007 if decisions are made soon on how to get there, U.S. space agency officials said Monday.

The agency's Office of Exploration outlined four scenarios for exploring Mars, including interim manned missions to the far side of the moon or to Mars's tiny moon Phobos, as promising enough to study in greater detail.

But National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) officials said that while they believed each of the four pathways could be achieved, it required an early decision on which to take to

ensure the United States gets there.

"Perhaps Phobos in 2003, Mars in 2007, and a lunar base by 2005 with a subsequent Mars outpost in 2015 using that lunar base," said John Aaron, head of the exploration office.

"By modest investments in the 90s we can preserve this nation's capability to act in the first decade of the new century," Aaron told a press conference. "Other nations are now making their preparations we must sustain our effort."

NASA officials refused to put a price tag on landing a man on

Mars, which was first photographed in detail by the U.S. spacecraft Mariner IX in 1971. The Soviet Union this past year launched two unmanned probes to Mars as part of an ambitious exploration programme.

Aaron said the cost would be less than what it took to put a man on the moon in the Apollo programme, which used up about five per cent of the entire government budget in the late 1960s. NASA's annual budget is about one per cent of total government spending.

"We are not calling for a crash

programme," Aaron said, adding that with relatively modest investments the United States would be able by the end of the century to "build the ships to explore the solar system."

That would mean new spacecraft, heavy launch vehicles, space "trucks" to ferry equipment and men, and orbiting platforms. This would be in addition to space shuttle, which recently returned to service after being grounded since the January 1986 accident in which the Challenger shuttle exploded, killing all seven crew members.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Packed audience previews Pope film

VATICAN CITY (AP) — A love story written by Pope John Paul II, starring Burt Lancaster and featuring three marriages but only one kiss previewed Monday night before a packed audience at the Vatican. "The Jeweler's Shop," the motion picture version of a play written by the Pope in 1960, when he was Karol Wojtyla, the bishop of Krakow, was shown to 7,000 invited guests at the Vatican's Paul VI hall. The play, performed on Italian radio in 1979 a year after the author became Pope, has been translated into 15 languages. The only other published play written by a man who would become Pope was "History of Two Loves" by Enea Silvio Piccolomini, who was crowned Pope Pius II in 1458. Directed by Michael Anderson, whose past films include "Around the World in 80 Days" and "Oren," the film is devoid of sexual tension, except for a lone kiss between Teresa, played by Olivia Hussey, and Andrew, played by Andrew Oochipinti, after he proposes.

Peru inaugurates reactor

LIMA, Peru (AP) — The presidents of Argentina and Peru inaugurated this Andean nation's first nuclear reactor in a Monday ceremony guarded by hundreds of police and soldiers in tanks watching for leftist guerrillas. Dozens of anti-nuclear activists protested peacefully in front of the Argentine embassy near downtown Lima, while Argentine President Raul Alfonsin and Peruvian President Alan Garcia inaugurated the \$106-million plant on the city's sparsely populated northern outskirts. Peru's Huaragal Atomic Centre has the only nuclear reactor in Latin America focused primarily on producing radioactive isotopes for commercial use and it is the region's largest research-oriented reactor, said Victor de la Torre, president of the Peruvian Institute of Nuclear Energy. Officials said security was heavier than normal for state visits because Maoist Shining Path guerrillas caused a blackout and exploded a car bomb during Alfonsin's 1985 visit to Lima.

AIDS taking toll on young

WASHINGTON (AP) — AIDS is now the ninth leading cause of death among children one to four years old and the seventh leading cause of deaths among young people age 15 to 24 in the United States, an official said Monday. If present trends continue, said Dr. Antonia Novello, the disease soon will be the number five killer of Americans from birth to the 24th birthday. In a report to Health and Human Services Secretary Otis R. Bowen, Novello said present statistics, "however tragic, sorely underestimate the true scope of pediatric AIDS." As of Dec. 12, 1,291 cases of AIDS had

been reported among infants and children under age 13 and an additional 325 cases in the 13-to-19-year group. Of those, 717 who were under 13 at the time of their diagnosis have already died, along with 174 who were adolescents when diagnosed.

Seoul gives amnesty to 281 prisoners

SEOUL (R) — South Korea announced Tuesday it would free 281 political prisoners in a further move to wipe away the legacy of eight years of authoritarian rule. Prime Minister Kang Young-Hoon said in a nationally broadcast statement that the amnesty followed consultations with opposition parties and was aimed at removing "scars of the past and promoting democracy." Kang said 2,015 people would be freed, paroled, have their civil rights restored or their sentences quashed under the amnesty, which takes effect Wednesday. Justice ministry officials told reporters that 281 political prisoners, sentenced or awaiting trial, would be released.

U.S. to sign drug accord

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States will join over 90 other nations in signing a United Nations convention on drug trafficking, the Justice Department said Monday. The agreement is scheduled to be signed Tuesday in Vienna. Attorney General Richard Thornburgh will sign for the United States. The convention establishes a list of drug trafficking offences that will become a violation of each country's laws. It also increases international cooperation on extradition, exchange of evidence in drug cases and arrests of drug smugglers.

U.S. interceptor to be tested

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States will test a revolutionary space-based interceptor within 18 months, trying to hit a missile fired from the ground, the director of the "Star Wars" programme said Monday. Air Force Lieutenant General James Abrahamson said in an interview the planned "K-hi" test was a major step in President Reagan's proposed defence against nuclear missiles. The Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), commonly called Star Wars, is not a paper tiger that should be abandoned in arms negotiations with the Soviet Union, he told Reuters and the international television agency VISNEWS. Abrahamson said five variations of the interceptor, a 68 kilogramme projectile to be fired from space to collide with a test missile fired from the ground, were being developed by Rockwell International Corporation and Martin Marietta Corporation.

UNICEF cards — legacy of a 7-year-old's thank-you note

By Claude Regis
Reuter

GENEVA — Nearly 40 years ago, a seven-year-old Czechoslovakian girl gave a relief organisation a picture she had painted in appreciation for its help to her war-ravaged village.

Little did Jitka Samkova know that her painting of five smiling little girls dancing around a maypole would become the first greeting card of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and spawn a major industry.

"One thing led to another and soon famous artists like Dufy, Chagall and Miro were contributing their works and today artists and museums from all over the world donate the reproduction rights of their works to UNICEF," says Austrian art expert Monika Knofler.

As art and design officer for Europe, Africa and the eastern Mediterranean, she travels to an average of 15 countries each year to identify artists and designers whose talents are suited to UNICEF's needs. The little Czechoslovak girl's thank-you present gave birth to the popular Christmas and New Year cards, a thriving business whose net profit last year reached a record \$38.5 million.

This is a far cry from the early days when at the initiative of its first director-general,

American Morris Patc, 1,000 cards were printed for internal use only by staff of the newborn UNICEF.

In 1950, a mere 130,000 cards were sold worldwide, netting \$4,200. Last year, the number of cards sold topped the 120 million mark.

"All profits are channelled directly into health, education and nutrition programmes in Third World countries," says Christine Couillerot, product manager of the Greeting Card Operation (GCO) at UNICEF's European headquarters in Geneva.

UNICEF was created in 1946 to provide massive emergency relief to destitute young victims of World War II. Its mandate was later extended to cater for the needs of millions of deprived children throughout the Third World.

In 1965 it received the Nobel Peace Prize for its work on behalf of children in need.

"Although UNICEF is part of the United Nations system, it is not financed through the U.N. budget and depends entirely on voluntary contributions from governments, private organisations and individuals, and on proceeds from the sale of UNICEF cards worldwide," Couillerot told Reuters.

According to Jean Aurie, UNICEF marketing manager, card sales account for an average of between eight and 10 per cent of UNICEF's annual

resources. Couillerot said that the increasing popularity of UNICEF cards boosted the greeting card industry in countries where no such tradition existed before World War II.

"But we face a lot of competition, particularly in the United States and Britain, two countries where sending Christmas, anniversary, and get-well cards are a long-established habit," she added.

UNICEF cards are best-sellers in the rest of the world, with West Germany, France and Spain the top buyers.

Kofner says this is due to the quality of contributions. "From several hundred art works submitted each year, an international art committee annually reviews and recommends to UNICEF's national committees those designs most suitable for reproduction as UNICEF cards," she told Reuters in an interview.

The cards are printed in English, French, Spanish, Russian and Chinese, the five official languages of the United Nations.

UNICEF has long branched out into cards suitable for all occasions as well as stationery for general correspondence, calendars and even toys.

It has adopted designs that reflect the diversity of cultures where UNICEF is at work, a major factor in the worldwide popularity of the cards.



Racy Christmas greetings

PHOENIX (AP) — Governor Rose Mofford has mailed 5,000 holiday cards featuring a smiling caricature of herself poking a bare leg from a white Roman toga slit up the side. "Rose liked it. I showed a little knee," said Sherman Goodrich, the San Diego artist who has designed Mofford's cards for 10 years. "She's a sexy lady." The idea to model the governor's costume after the goddess of liberty, a winged statue atop the capitol dome, was Mofford's, Goodrich said. The message in the card reads: "Seasons greetings, and my heartfelt thanks for your help and trust in this my first year as governor of the great state of Arizona." The cards were sent to everyone for whom she had a name and address as well as to the state's newspapers and nation's governors, said spokesman Vada Manager. Mrs. Mofford is 65.

Birthday song to get new owner

NEW YORK (R) — The song sung at birthday parties all over the world is being sold as part of a \$25 million deal, the New York Times said Tuesday. "Happy Birthday To You," which brings in an estimated \$1 million a year in royalties, will become the property of Warner Communications Incorporated after the company acquires Birchtree Limited, the jingle's current owner, the paper said, quoting two executives involved in the deal. "Happy Birthday," "Auld Lang Syne" and "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow" are the three most popular songs in the English language, according to the Guinness Book of World Records.

Town residents change name

DELRAY BEACH, Florida (AP) — The residents of the Leisureville Delray retirement condominium community have voted to change the name of the town. They said it made them sound lazy, hedonistic and over the top. "There's always somebody that makes fun of it," said Doris Goldberg, one of the eight-year-old complex's 1,098 residents. "It sounds like an old people's home." These senior citizens say they may be retired, but they are far from retiring. At their annual meeting, they voted 598-2 to change the name to Delray Villas. "We're active, energetic and athletic," resident Connie Joseph said. "If you saw our tennis courts, you wouldn't believe we were senior citizens."

Tabloids come to duchess defence

LONDON (R) — Britain's tabloid press unleashed its full fury on an American fashion guru Monday after he described the Duchess of York as a fashion disaster who walked like a duck with a bad leg. Mass-circulation papers, which themselves normally lambast "Fergie" — the former Sarah Ferguson — for her dress sense and ample figure, closed ranks to defend her against the criticism of U.S. designer Richard Blackwell. Blackwell, known for his annual list of the world's worst-dressed women, called the red-haired duchess "a fashion obscenity who walks like a duck with a bad leg." He added that she "looks as if she makes beds in Ireland or milks cows." "There's no hope for her... she is as badly dressed as anyone I've seen in the backwoods of Indiana," he said in an interview with a British women's magazine. The Sun ran the story under the banner headline "What a Jerk" (referring to Blackwell).

Bikini creator goes bust

PARIS (R) — The firm that sprung the "bikini" swimsuit on an unsuspecting world 42 years ago is closing down — a victim of changing fashions and cold economic reality. The Reard Company, whose founder Louis Reard invented the daring two-piece and spent a fortune defending its trademark, said Monday it was calling in the receivers. First unveiled June 3, 1946, the costume was named after the Pacific Atoll of Bikini where the world's first peacetime nuclear test had just taken place. It had a similarly explosive effect. Although it dominated magazine covers that summer, it took years for the bikini to be acceptable to polite bathing society. But Reard, a former automobile engineer who died four years ago aged 87, always liked to shock. In 1964 he brought out the Monokini, a one-piece swimsuit that covered only half as much flesh as its predecessor.